

3-17-2003

## Current, March 17, 2003

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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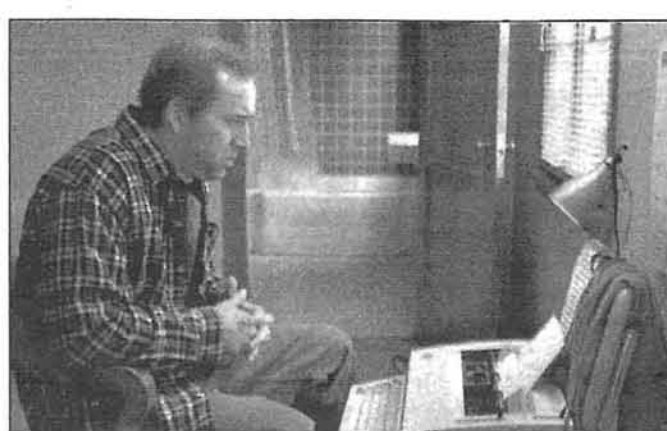
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See page 11

'Adaption' has good chance for Oscar

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## UMSL teams up with Georgia State

### Criminology departments to join together on study

BY BECKY ROSNER

Staff Writer

A project entitled "Fighting Crime with Advanced Technology" has recently received an additional federal grant of \$1.5 million. This grant comes right behind a previous grant of \$3 million that UM-St. Louis shares with Georgia State University.

The project was started up on October 1, 2002, making it a relatively new and working venture. The purpose of the project is to advance the reporting of crime in several cities around the United States, including St. Louis, Milwaukee and Atlanta. Law enforcement agencies will be lent a hand with the money from the project in an effort to circulate the reporting of crime in a more efficient manner.

"The goals are to improve the quality and timeliness of crime indicators in St. Louis and, eventually, nationwide," said Richard Rosenfeld, professor and chair of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department.

The preliminary funding for the project was for three years and three cities, and with the additional money, it is able to be expanded to four or five years and will be able to develop into other cities around the nation. This will also enable law agencies to divide crime data over short run phases.

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was first developed in the 1980s and has expanded and developed into a larger and more efficient system since its initiation. The hopes of the joint criminology project anticipate bringing police enforcement up to pace with this system of reporting crime.

"I believe, as do many criminologists, that we need better crime indicators than we have currently," Rosenfeld said. "Better in the sense that crime indicators need to be more specific than they are."

Rosenfeld heads up the crime project. Working along-side Rosenfeld are David Curry, professor of criminology and criminal justice; Eric Baumer, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice; Caroline Phillips, research specialist in the department; and Rob Fornato, graduate student.

"My primary role is to evaluate the extent of which agencies across the U.S. comply with the reporting of crime to the FBI," Baumer said.

see CRIMINOLOGY, page 3

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# Brady wins number 500

BY HANK BURNS

Sports Editor

Just days before their first weekend of conference play, the UM-St. Louis baseball team defeated Central Missouri State 11-2 on Thursday. With the victory, Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady reached a milestone in his career at UM-St. Louis, collecting win number 500. Brady is one of 47 coaches in NCAA Division II history to reach 500 wins and one of 29 active coaches to hit that number.

“This milestone is a reflection of the vast majority of quality players that have passed through this program.”

— Jim Brady,  
Rivermen Head Coach

Following a series sweep of conference-rival Lewis this weekend, Brady's record is 504-282-4. Although Brady appreciates the importance of his career record, he attributes his success to the program's elite class of players of the past and present.

"I've never thrown one pitch, nor have I ever taken one swing," Brady said. "This milestone is a reflection of the vast majority of quality players that have passed through this program. I've tried to surround this program with guys who are an extension of myself—athletes with not only the desire to compete but a passion to prepare and the will to win, guys that are not afraid to battle against all odds in order to achieve success."

The victory over CMSU caught the eye of Lewis Head Coach Irish O'Reilly, who along with Brady and SIUE skipper Garry Collins, are the only three active coaches in the Great Lakes Valley Conference with 500 career victories. O'Reilly has 920 wins and Collins has 770 wins.

"That's a great accomplishment," O'Reilly said. "It means you've got to work really hard to get that many wins, especially at one school. My hat's off to him and the team. I'm sure

he'll have many more goals to get to, levels and plateaus to get to. I'm sure, against a good team like Central Missouri, it probably was very pleasing to Coach Brady."

The fact that his team defeated CMSU at home is very pleasing to Brady, especially after his team started the season with a 6-2 record following away games in Florida.

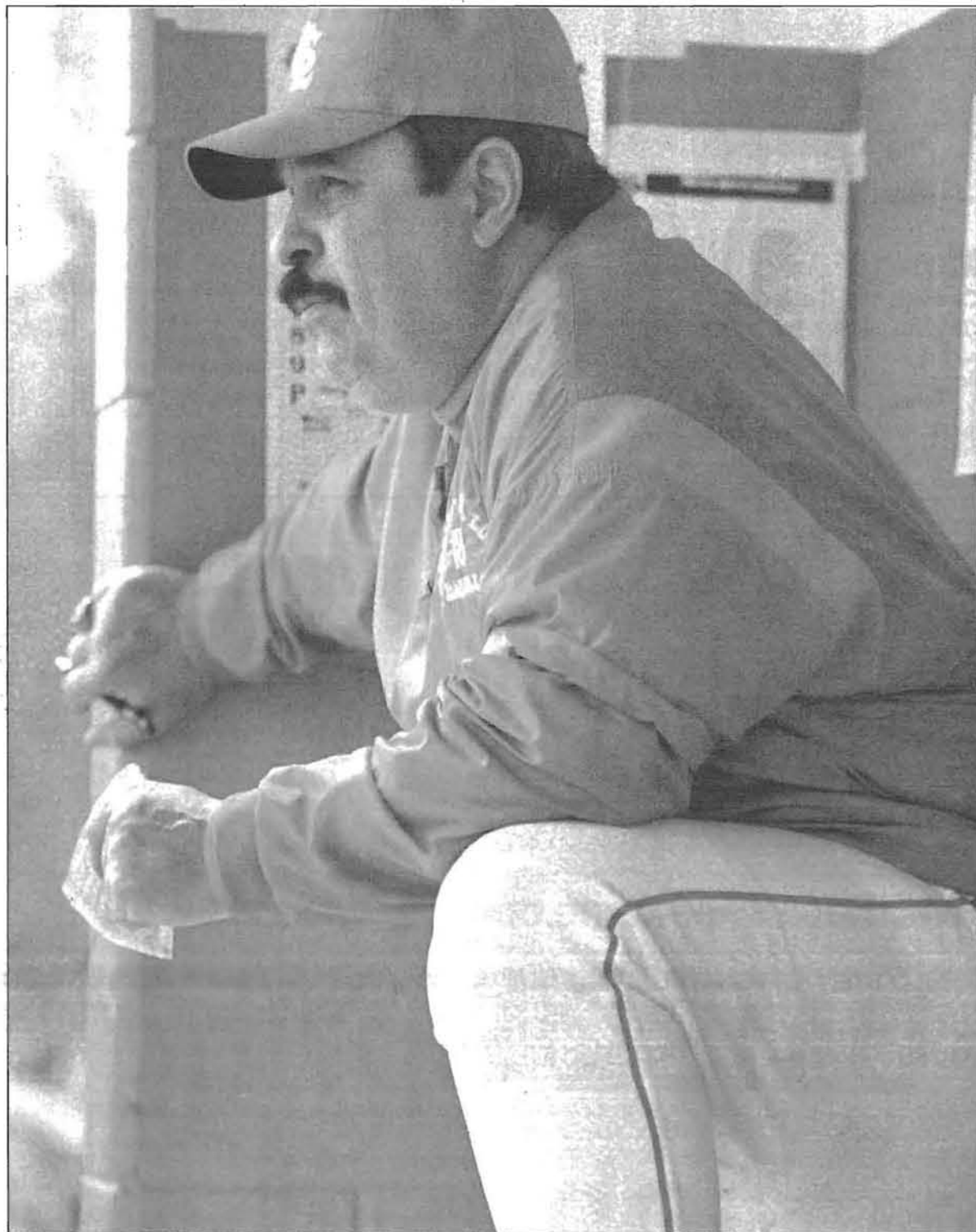
"We walk into their house, and we beat their ace 11-2 after we made a strong statement down in Florida," Brady said. "We beat some good clubs down there. You could just see that the more these guys play together, they just continue to get better and better. Our pitchers are doing all the little things that it takes to be successful."

"To walk out of their house 11-2 victors and beat up on their ace and it just kind of carried over to this weekend and we want to continue that trend tomorrow," Brady said. "It's just kind of like a snowball that's gathering momentum as it rolls down the hill. The more that we roll down the hill, the bigger we're going to become."

Brady's program has become almost as big as he imagined it to be. And the program apparently has quite a legacy, with many of his former players and coaches becoming successful in baseball. His former assistant coach Joe Swiderski, formerly the head coach at St. Louis Community College-Meramec, now coaches at Missouri Baptist. Ryan Ray, another former assistant, currently serves as head coach at Vianney High School. In addition, former Rivermen standouts Brody Jackson and Bryan Beckmann now play for the River City Rascals, a local independent minor league team.

"I hold the utmost respect for the majority of those guys that have come through these doors," Brady said, of his players. "I'm a pretty tough taskmaster, and at times I don't even like me; but my job is to get these guys to reach deep into their inner selves to find that formula for success."

"That successful UMSL formula, coupled with experience, allowed them to see that success and achievement is based on an uncompromising mindset of commitment," Brady continued. "I believe we succeeded since the majority has gone on to a multitude of successful careers. So, it says a lot about what we've done and what we've achieved."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen Baseball Coach Jim Brady takes notes in the dugout during the game vs. Lewis Sunday afternoon. Brady is now one of 47 coaches in the history of NCAA Division II to reach 500 wins.

Winning has been one of the top priorities for Brady and his team. And even after he was diagnosed with colon cancer in 1989 (he had a full recovery soon after), the thrill of victory was of the utmost importance for Brady.

"I can remember saying to myself, 'Please God, if I can just walk back on the field. I just want to compete,'"

Brady once recalled. "I remember thinking that all I want to do is compete, and the very first day I walked on the field, after going through all that, I had to win. That's the only way I was going to be happy. It gave me a great perspective on many things."

Brady has taught that same mindset to many of his former players and

assistant coaches. Among those may be former assistant Gary Donahue, who, like Brady, was diagnosed with cancer. Donahue, who served under Brady from 1992-95 and now coaches at Lafayette High School, is suffering from pancreatic cancer.

see JIM BRADY, page 3

## 'One bourbon, one scotch one...suspension?'

# Dorm regulations reinforced to students

BY ASHLEY RICHMOND

Staff Writer

How safe are the dorms? This is a questions students face everyday.

The current 2002-2003 Campus Housing Residential Guide outlines community policies that would be essential to maintaining a safe place to live.

"The University assumes a 'zero tolerance' attitude toward alcohol and other drugs in the resident's halls."

The University Meadows also will not tolerate drugs but does permit alcohol possession or consumption as long as it is "in compliance with local, state and federal laws." The policy of the Meadows also notes that "If any resident of a living unit is under 21, you may not possess or consume, or display alcoholic containers" in your apartment.

Sometimes alcohol consumption can lead to more violations. Alcohol-related conduct, including noise disturbances, loud music, yelling and reckless driving "will be dealt with swiftly," according to the community policies. "Sanctions may include, but are not limited to fines, referral to the UMSL judiciary officer and/or eviction."

According to Harry Harris,

assistant director of the University Meadows, noise is a frequent violation.

"We deal a lot with noise violations. We usually just talk with the residents and make sure they understand," Harris said.

“The University assumes a ‘zero tolerance’ attitude toward alcohol and other drugs in the resident’s halls.”

—2002-2003 Campus  
Housing Residential Guide

According to Harris, these informal discussions usually settle the problem. If the problem persists, Harris said the situation is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, depending on the infraction.

The Residential Halls may see the alcohol problem from time to time, but according to Residential Assistant (RA) Alex Kerford, engineering, sophomore, the unescorted guests

policy is the one that is most broken.

"You have to follow your escorts around everywhere after you check them in to the front desk," Kerford said.

According to Kerford, the RAs "communicate the rules, and we are the people that inform other people when rules are broken." An RA would never set punishment.

"We do the write-ups. Over a month, I would probably have written one, and it's usually with escorting guests or propping doors open. It's a security issue," Kerford said.

If a security breach takes place, the RA files a report.

Graduate Hall Director Mitch Isaacs receives the reports and decides punishment for minor violations.

"The students are sent to me for a judicial hearing," Isaacs said. "I get about six a month. Most deal with the escort policy and sometimes alcohol. I tend to give people one warning. I open a file on them. The worst thing I will do is let them choose between a \$25 fine or 5 hours of community service."

see DORM REGULATION, page 3



Kevin Ottley/The Current

The idea of 'basic necessities' is slightly undermined in this dormitory microfridge, which displays a mix of the traditional with the alcoholic.



# Bulletin Board

**Put it on the Board:**  
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu).  
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

## Thru April 7 Gallery Visio

"UM-St. Louis Women on the Move: A Retrospective of UM-St. Louis Women Artists" is the current exhibit at Gallery Visio. Gallery Visio is located on the 1st floor of the MSC, next to The Nosh.

## Thru April 17 Submissions wanted

Bellerive is accepting submissions (poetry, short stories, essays, photos, artwork, etc.). Include your name, phone #, and email. Drop off at the Honors College Student Office, the English Department Office, or the Fine Arts Office. Deadline: April 17. For more info, email [nancygleason@umsl.edu](mailto:nancygleason@umsl.edu).

## Mon 17 Chemistry Colloquia

The 6th Annual Robert W. Murray Lecture is at 4 p.m. in room 102 Benton Hall. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lawrence Barton at 516-5334.

## Mon 17 (cont.) Rec Sports

Rec Sports aerobics classes begin TODAY, March 17, and run through May 9. One fee allows participants to attend any class at any time for the entire 8-week session (students - \$25; faculty, staff and alumni - \$35; others - \$45). Try classes like step, yoga, total body toning, powersport and more. For a complete wellness schedule or to register, contact Rec Sports at 203 Mark Twain or call 516-5326 or check [www.umsl.edu/services/recsport](http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport).

## Tues 18 Career Services

A Resume Writing Workshop is from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in 278 MSC. Registration required; call 516-5111 or visit Career Services at 516-5111. The event is free and open to students.

## 18 Student Senate

The Student Senate is having an informational meeting about becoming involved in the organization at 2 p.m. in the conference room in the MSC. For more information, contact Jhanah at 516-6802.

## Tues 18 (cont.) Zeta Phi Beta

As part of Zeta Week 2003, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority presents Tight Tuesday. Work it out with the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta.

## Wed 19 Rec Sports

Rec Sports' Floor Hockey Leagues, Men's and Coed teams, are now forming. Games are played Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the MT Gym, beginning April 1. All equipment is provided. Coed teams include 3 men/women plus subs. Teams and individuals welcome. Entry deadline is TODAY. Register teams in the Rec Sports Office, 203 MT.

## 19 Trailblazer Ceremony

The Eighth Annual Trailblazer Ceremony is at 1 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. The guest speaker is Blanche M. Touhill, UM-St. Louis Chancellor Emeritus. For more information, call the Office of Equal Opportunity at 516-5695.

## Wed 19 (cont.) Zeta Phi Beta

As part of Zeta Week 2003, Professor of Counseling Joseph B. Worth discusses the topic of depression of the male gender. The event is at 7:20 p.m. in Century Room A of the MSC.

## 19 Golden Key

The Golden Key International Honour Society is having a meeting at 4 p.m. in the GK cubicle on the 3rd floor of the MSC in the Student Organizations Offices. As part of the regional community service project, the chapter is donating canned foods to the Kitchen Inc. Bring canned foods to the meeting or drop them off at the GK cubicle by Friday, March 21.

## 19 Student Senate

The Student Senate is having an informational meeting about becoming involved in the organization at 7 p.m. in the conference room in the MSC. For more information, contact Jhanah at 516-6802.

## Thur 20 Zeta Phi Beta

As part of Zeta Week 2003, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority presents "Recess." Come for games, movies, food and more. Events start at 7:20 p.m. in the Pilot House on the 1st floor of the MSC. For more information on Zeta Week 2003, email [zeta\\_rho@finer-woman.zzn.com](mailto:zeta_rho@finer-woman.zzn.com) or [Illuzion\\_5@yahoo.com](mailto:Illuzion_5@yahoo.com).

## 20 Student Life

The "Blizzard of Bucks Game Show" will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Nosh. Play an interactive game show and win money. Sign up on game day.

## Fri 21 Physics & Astronomy

The Physics & Astronomy Colloquium: "Phase-Locking and 1/f Frequency Noise, Classical and Quantum Studies" is from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in 328 Benton Hall. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Alice Canavan at 516-5933.

# The Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the University of Missouri - St. Louis Police Department between March 7, 2003 and March 13, 2003. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are urged to call 516-5155. Campus police provides this information as a public service to promote awareness. Remember: crime prevention is

a community effort.

### March 10 - Harassment

A subject at 2924 University Meadows received harassing phone calls.

### March 11 - Theft Over \$500

A Palm Pilot was stolen from an examination room in Marillac Hall - Optometry.

### March 11 - Theft Under \$500

At the Normandie Residence Hall - Lot RR, a license plate renewal tab and half of the license plate was stolen from a vehicle.

### March 11 - Theft Under \$500

A student reported a parking permit stolen; the location where the crime took place is unknown.

### March 13 - Property Damage

At 114 Marillac Hall, a window was found broken though there was no entry into the area.

### March 13 - Property Damage

At 4391 Apt. C Mansion Hills, a girlfriend of the victim threw a brick through the window of his apartment.

During this same time period 9 vehicles on campus were "booted" because of being considered frequent violators. All of them had to pay \$25 to have the boot removed. All vehicles that are parked on campus need to display some kind of valid parking permit.

[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com) [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

# UMSL Spring Job Fair

Friday, April 4, 2003

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark Twain Building

Over 50 outstanding business organizations will be participating

Admission is Free for pre-registered job seekers!

Deadline to register - March 28, 2003

Admission will be \$5 at the door

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[www.umsl.edu/depts/career/activities](http://www.umsl.edu/depts/career/activities)

For more information, contact

## Career Services

278 Millennium Student

516-5111 [career\\_services@umsl.edu](mailto:career_services@umsl.edu)

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# Mushaben: ‘Give women equity in pay increases’

BY MICHAEL DUMADAG  
Staff Writer

The word inequity is associated with words such as unfairness, discrimination and injustice. Every citizen of America has the right to his or her own equal opportunity, guaranteed under the United States Constitution, pertaining to certain issues.

A topic that has been hovering around this campus since the 1970s is gender inequity in professor salaries, particularly female professors getting paid less than male professors.

A gender equity report was produced in 2001 by several female professors in many various departments of the campus. The report shows numerous statistics indicating inequity in pay in many different departments. Also, the statistics break down different positions and rank among faculty showing any discrepancy.

Taken from a gender equity report, the mean salaries for all female faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences were about \$9,500 less than for male faculty, and median salaries were about \$8,500 less, with the largest discrepancies at the rank

of full professor. Evidence shows that women's salaries are approximately 4.4% lower than men's, after taking into account years since degree, rank and field of specialization. Also, excluded

“Evidence shows that women's salaries are approximately 4.4% lower than men's, after taking into account years since degree, rank and field of specialization.”

ing faculty members in the departments of the College of Fine Arts and Communications, women's salaries are on average 6% lower than men's.

One person who is concerned with this issue is Joyce Mushaben, professor of political science and director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies.

According to Mushaben, “when a department hires someone at the assistant level, those salaries tend to

be equal because a department hires someone at the market rate. Whether the person is male or female, they both will make the same amount of money,” Mushaben said.

“But after six years, their salaries become subjective. At the ten-year mark, when the same person applies for a promotion, it is up to the dean, the chair of the department and the full professors to review the annual report and decide upon a salary increase. The increase is based on the money the department has to distribute,” Mushaben said.

“Before tenure, there is a bit of a gap,” Mushaben claims. “There is a history on this campus of women taking much longer to become full professors than men because it is up to the other full professors who decide when to put you up for promotion.”

Marty Rochester, professor, political science, takes a different point of view. Rochester said, “historically there has been discrimination in the past, but it has been corrected. If there is discrimination; they should use the courts. But this issue was taken care of in the '80s.”

“In my department, there is no discrimination. We have a balance of full female professors and full male professors,” Rochester said.

## DORM REGULATIONS, from page 1

If the infraction is really bad, Isaacs explained, the matter goes directly to his supervisor. The Chancellor or Vice Chancellor could get involved in serious cases like sexual assault, theft or possession of a weapon.

Jennifer Russo, nursing, freshman, says she feels safe living in the residential hall. “I feel a lot better this semester than last semester. We got new locks, and there are cops making more rounds,” Russo said.

Addressing the major problem area of escorting guests, Russo said, “They get checked in, but they don't follow them around. I've seen unescorted guests, and I'd report it to an RA.”

The Meadows tries to deter guests with limited entry and perimeter fencing, but according to Pam Warner, business, junior, the gate may not be that effective.

“I think [it is] a big waste of money, especially if they aren't going to use it,” Warner said. According to Warner, the gate has been broken for a while. “The gate is pretty useless, even when it works. People can easily get in when residents swipe their cards to get access. It doesn't prevent people from coming in.”

Warner said she did like to see the presence of UM-St. Louis police making

rounds. Harris said, “The UMSL police do patrol throughout the day. Other local departments, Normandy usually, sometimes make a friendly round.”

The Community Policies for the University Meadows says “the University Police Department provides police services in the Project from time to time at their sole discretion.”

UM-St. Louis police will give parking tickets to overnight guests not having parking passes. According to Harris, the Meadows set the parking stickers policy to try to reserve space for the UM-St. Louis residents.

In light of the recent fire in a residential hall, the dorms have had to address some key issues.

“There's not a sprinkling system. We had a discussion and talked about the issue” following the recent fire, Kerford said.

According to the Campus Residential Housing Guide, “Each semester there will be a fire drill in each hall for the purpose of familiarizing the residents with the emergency evacuation procedures.” However, neither Kerford nor Russo have experienced these drills or knew anything about them.

## JIM BRADY, from page 1



Mike Sherwin/ The Current  
R-men Head Coach Jim Brady

According to Brady, Donahue may continue to coach this season.

“He was probably one of the most inspirational guys I've ever been

around, a real special person,” Brady said. “Those kids out there at Lafayette love him. We were quite the tandem, and there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about Gary. He's one of those guys that all of us aspire to be—great with people. He's going to battle this thing, and hopefully, if there's a guy that's capable of kicking it, he's the one. I think he's going to go ahead and proceed with the high school season, and he's an inspiration to all of us.”

Brady feels very confident in his current assistant coach Deron Spink, who graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1995.

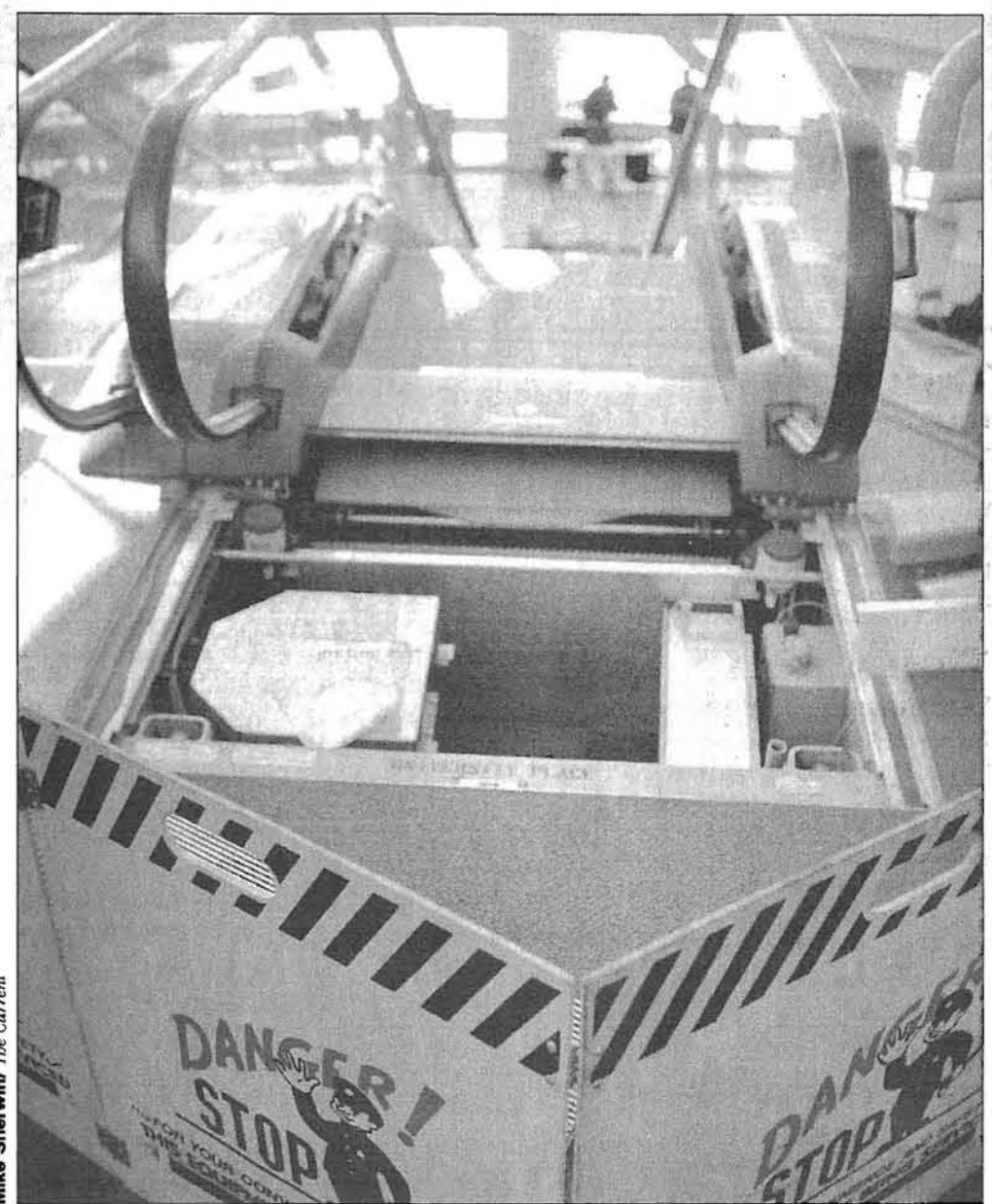
“He's one of the finest college coaches in the USA,” Brady said. “You kind of cherish every day that you're together because something like

this doesn't last forever. Guys that are good, they're going to be wanted. As long as we stay together, the sky is the limit for us. He's a pretty special individual, and we just made a great pair.”

Of the utmost importance now is Brady's current squad, which he feels has the ability to make a championship run this season.

“They've got it. I could just feel it,” Brady said. “If we can stay injury-free, we're going to definitely go out and make a statement. If everything falls into place and we have a little luck, because it's also about having a little luck at the right time, then we could find ourselves in postseason play and beyond and going to the World Series and playing for a national championship. It's very possible with this club.”

One of the escalators from the third floor of the MSC lies closed to pedestrian traffic earlier this month.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

# Going nowhere: Broken again Escalator problems cause headaches

BY KATE DROLET  
Staff Writer

Your arms are loaded with winter weather wear, your book bag is full of heavy books, and you're late for class. You hurry toward the escalator, only to find yourself faced with a steep, unmoving staircase. As you stumble upward, people going downward bump into you, making you lose both balance and time.

Most students have faced a similar scene at least once this year. The escalators running between the first and second floors seem to break down constantly. Benard Diggs, Manager of Operations at the Millennium Student Center, explained that the escalator breakdowns have been caused by a number of small mechanical problems, not one recurring flaw.

The escalators are only two-and-a-half years old, and just need the bugs “tweaked out of them,” according to Diggs. Students, faculty and staff have been inconvenienced many times, often being forced to use one side for days. Last semester, the escalator served as a staircase for several weeks while a part was special ordered

from Canada. “There aren't a whole lot of escalator companies, so that part was only available through the Canada branch,” Diggs explained.

Students are tired of trekking up and down on the broken machinery. Velony Jack, senior, commented, “[The broken escalator is] a big inconvenience and also potentially dangerous, especially if you're wearing dress shoes or carrying heavy books. I've actually seen people fall before, and I've tripped a few times myself.”

Is there anything we can do to keep our escalators functioning properly?

“Don't ride the handrails,” Diggs advised. “The escalators have built-in safety features, so sudden jolts can shut them down. I have noticed students stomping down [the escalators] on several occasions, and that can trigger a shut down.”

Each Friday, all of the escalators undergo preventive maintenance. Until all of the bugs are worked out, students should take extra care when traveling up and down. Be patient when dealing with broken escalators. Most importantly, tread carefully and be aware of those around you.

## CRIMINOLOGY, from page 1

“There is a lot of underreporting, agencies who do not report full data for the entire year, and some agencies do not even report at all.”

One example of a specific improvement is that it would be useful to know what fractions of violent crimes are associated with illicit drugs. It is also important to produce crime indicators on a more frequent basis.

The project will look in detail at the characteristics of the agencies that decide to report and those that do not report. They will look at the neighborhood, environment, location, size and many other factors of those agencies who do and do not report their crime data. The ideal for agencies and the public would be to have complete data for crime in order to improve the bureaus around the U.S. and decrease rates of crime.

“I think that it's important for any democratic society to have reliable crime data,” Baumer said. “A broader objective of the project is to make

crime data in general more useful and to use [it] to make decisions.”

One of the challenges is to fully grasp the differences between agencies and to gather more uniformity between these agencies. How things are done and the capabilities of the bureaus are some of these problems they plan to overcome.

Georgia State and UM- St. Louis are two of the 19 schools in the Great Cities' Universities consortium affiliated with the endeavor. Both universities have very active criminology and criminal justice departments. They communicate by telephone, e-mail and trips.

Making reliable information available to the public will help people in deciding where they want to live and what sorts of neighborhoods they will be moving into.

“Both St. Louis and Atlanta are the two main pilot areas for the project,” Rosenfeld said. “My work in St. Louis is pretty much like the work in Atlanta done by my co-principle investigator

at Georgia State.”

The two universities work with police agencies, as well as criminal justice and community organizations, to find out what they would like by way of assistance in producing crime indicators, and to design better ones. The project coordinators would like to try and provide assistance to local agencies interested in the improvement and timeliness of the crime indicators. By working with these agencies, they may be able to get information out to the public in a timelier manner.

The recognition that the project will bring to UM-St. Louis will be first-class and will also provide many exciting opportunities to students who are interested in criminology and criminal justice and the reporting of crime in general.

“We're very excited now that the project has finally begun,” Rosenfeld said. “We look forward to working with Georgia State on the project.”

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STUDENT

OUR OPINION

# Journalism 101

## So, news is new; What else is it?

Since there seems to have been an large amount of confusion about what "news" is and is not lately, the following guidelines will, perhaps, help to more clearly define "news." This is not, however, an exhaustive list, and there are always exceptions.

FACTORS OF NEWSWORTHINESS

CONFLICT

Humans are constantly in conflict: war, sports, strikes, finding a cure for a disease, fighting tuition increases. All of these actions are part of the conflict of life and of news.

CONSEQUENCE

What is the outcome(s) and effect(s) of an event or occurrence? How will a raise in student fees affect students? How will the campus geese be affected by a new chemical sprayed on the grass to keep it green?

HUMAN INTEREST

While considered soft news, this is more like a features article. Examples would include a profile about a student with a 12-foot boa constrictor as a pet and a drag show held on campus. These often invoke an emotion of happiness, sadness, pity or amazement.

HUMOR

People enjoy laughing and smiling. Reporting on funny incidents is common practice in journalism as long as the reports do not become harmful or libelous.

IMPACT

The number of people involved or affected must be considered. If many people are involved, it could be news. If few are, it is likely not news. At times, that also depends on who is involved—see Prominence.

NOVELTY / EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY / VARIETY

If something is new or has never been done before, it's news. For example, if a UM—St. Louis alumni is elected president of the US, it's news.

PATHOS

People love to hear about other's misfortunes. It's sad to say, but humans love to hear about other's tragedies. That also makes something news. For example, a child being left without parents when his mother and father died in a car accident is often considered news.

PROMINENCE

If the "big names" or celebrities are affected as opposed to a common citizen, something becomes news because it involves a well-known figure. If Floyd has a heart attack, it's news. If a graduate student's does, it's not. It all at matter of why people would care about something—people tend to want to read about prominent figures and not laymen.

PROXIMITY

How close something is to UM—St. Louis or St. Louis or the UM System is a definite factor. For example, a fire on the campus of UCLA is not news in Missouri, but it is in California. It is why we report on a speech made by our chancellor, but not on a speech made by Wash U's president on Wash U's campus.

RELEVANCE

Would our readers care? If so, then it's probably worth reporting on. It's the difference between reporting on a tax break given for tuition and a tax break given for the clergy.

TIMELINESS

To be news, it needs to be new. We cannot report on something that happened a year ago and call it news. For example, Blanche M. Touhill's retirement is no longer news.

TITILLATION

This usually includes sex. Such topics as men's and women's underwear fashions and prostitution rings fall under this category.

USEFULNESS

How-to or for your information articles fall under this category. A cake recipe and instructions on making your own Christmas cards are usefulness articles, as are articles about saving gas and a new email scam.

FINAL NOTES

News is always an action taken or happened. We cannot report on future plans that might fall through and someone's thoughts about perhaps starting something. News is based on facts, not rumors or inklings. We do not just take one person at his/her word.

Hopefully, this will give everyone a clearer sense of what news is.

... AND THE MAN SAID HE WAS GLAD TO PAY FOR HIS GROCERIES WITH EXACT CHANGE - WE'VE JUST RECEIVED AN UPDATE ON OUR TOP STORY, I'M TOLD THE KITTEN IS NOW OUT OF THE TREE, THANKS TO THE BRAVE EFFORTS OF LOCAL FIREMEN...



## What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- What defines "news"
- Others' reactions to *The Current*
- Drinking

You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a Letter to the Editor
- Write a Guest Commentary
- Visit the Online Forums at [TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

# A grain of salt

I remember as a child looking at my reflection in a pond and throwing rocks at it to watch it shatter. I marveled at how that little bit of stone could not only wipe out my image but also could make waves to blur and distort the reflections of everything else on the previously glassy surface.

That was a long time ago, but the message has remained with me: Something so small as a pebble can destroy something so large as the entirety of a pond. In other words, in the process of belittling others, we hurt not only them but ourselves too.

Take for example, the recent slander and libel against *The Current*. While few students ever discuss anything with me via writing or just talking (and I thank those very few who do, especially Courtney Sturat, who continues to have an open and mature dialogue with me about *The Current*), many continually discuss it among themselves and others who have no knowledge or what true journalism is and how *The Current* works or makes decisions. Instead, most of the complainers have taken the coward's way out, the immature way out, the easy way out—the path most taken, if you will. Instead of writing letters to the editor or simply speaking with me, they have made up their fictional "reasons" for their perceived problems with *The Current* and have generated ways to "fix" the publication that are not only outside their bounds but are also illegal and unconstitutional.

Take for example, the request by a member of the Student Assembly during the Student Government Association's last meeting for a Publications Committee meeting without *The Current's* advisor or me. Although the advisor and I are both ex officio members, the committee cannot meet without giving us prior notification of the meeting and the chance to attend any meetings held by the committee. While the actual members of the Publications Committee with whom I have spoken understand this and do not want to differ from such requirements, the students who want this to happen did not take this into consideration

before requesting such a meeting that goes against all regulations.

The SGA has tried several times to run or help run *The Current*. Several members of SGA were inflamed by the request for a meeting of the Publications Committee in an open SGA meeting because they felt the student asking for it was trying to take charge of SGA. Surely, I'm not the only one who finds it funny that SGA wants to run *The Current* but gets mad when they think that someone else wants to run SGA.

Additionally, perhaps the Student Senate Organization members who are speaking out so strongly against *The Current* need to realize that by doing so they are angering many of their constituents because they are continually harping on how bad they think *The Current* is because we "always print bad stuff." So, they can talk about how bad the "bad stuff" is we print all day, but we aren't supposed to print anything but happy events—i.e. not the truth. Perhaps instead of worrying about the fact that we print news and not fluff, the SSO should use its time to consider how to fix the problems *The Current* points out.

Several members of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri have made complaints similar to those of the SSO. According to their own website ([www.ums.edu/~asum](http://www.ums.edu/~asum)), "ASUM represents the interests of the University of Missouri System students to legislators in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C." So, shouldn't they be working on UM System issues instead of another student organization? There are several much more important issues within the UM System that need to be handled instead of constantly trying to police and control a student publication of a single UM System campus.

Many organizations on this campus do not get along, yet they do not target and attack each other—except when *The Current* is involved.

Maybe Dolly Parton summed it up best: "Stay out of my closet if your own's full of trash."

## Go ahead, drink up; I'll bring the Advil

In general, college students are stereotyped as individuals who, overall, spend a lot of time socially drinking. More often than not, alcohol is a key element when coordinating plans for Friday and Saturday evenings and even sometimes weekdays.

Now, there is nothing wrong with alcohol playing a small or even a large part in a person's social life, but what about those who don't drink? I have recently evolved from a drinker to a non-drinker and often find myself in situations where others expect me to explain my reasons for refraining from alcohol. Why do I have to explain myself?

Personally, I feel that I drank enough in high school to where I have already had my fill. While being underage, drinking can make a minor feel older, more comfortable with their surroundings and more confident about themselves. There are endless reasons why people choose to drink. Moreover, there are endless reasons why people choose not to drink.

I may have a sip here or there just to try something, but getting "trashed" is out of the question.

I have come upon a decent amount of people that, after realizing that I am not a drinker, tell me, "well, that is respectable," while others just can't

understand why I wouldn't enjoy altering my consciousness on a regular basis.

Research shows that alcohol is the most socially accepted legal drug that is used by individuals, and it also has the most user loyalty. How many times do you turn on the TV and see commercials for Michelob or Busch or Budweiser? And let's face it, everybody has their drink of choice, and their loyalty to that drink is unwavering. Why? It gets them drunk well. Honestly, why else do people drink? They can claim it's for taste, but that's a lie. It gets them drunk.

Regardless of what people think, what it comes down to is a matter of choice. If I choose not to drink, so be it. Let it go at that. I am getting somewhat tired of people constantly bringing me drinks and expecting me to "chug" them down just to get wasted. I don't know what the fascination is behind the whole thing. I mean, it's okay for a teenager who doesn't know what it's all about and wants to find out what the fascination is. But for someone who has lived through the teenage doldrums, I kind of look at the drunken people and laugh. Because in the morning when you wake up praying to the porcelain god and complaining about a headache, I'll be ready to start my day.

So drink up, and I'll bring you the Advil.



STANFORD GRIFFITH  
Editor-in-Chief



ANNE BAUER  
Managing Editor

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## LETTERS

MAIL

*The Current*

388 Millennium Student Center  
8001 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX

(314) 516-6811

E-MAIL

[info@thecurrentonline.com](mailto:info@thecurrentonline.com)

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness or intent. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s).

# Under Current

by Kevin Ottley  
Staff Photographer

Who is your favorite musical artist right now



Tracey Baliles  
Sophomore  
Secondary Education

The music of Good Charlotte always puts me in a pleasant mood.



Chris Lorange  
Junior  
Psychology

311-I love the relaxed vibe of the music.



Marla Montgomery  
Freshman  
Graphic Design

Sublime! Most everything they sing about I like to partake in.



Curtis Durbin  
Senior  
History

I like Bruce Springsteen; he's the boss!



# The 'fairer' science

Often, scientists and the general public alike tend to talk and think about science as if it represents the intellectual progress of humankind, but there still remain some important questions about intellectual equality in science. Is science the progress of humankind, or is it more specifically the progress of mankind, often ignorant of the contributions of female scientists?



BY MICAH L. ISSITT  
Science Columnist

The history of science has been overwhelmingly dominated by the contributions of male scientists. The history and contributions of female scientists, with some notable exceptions like Marie Curie and Jane Goodall, have remained largely unknown to the public and even to scientific professionals. The question is whether there is some sort of implicit sexism that keeps women scientists from making an equal contribution, or whether the disequilibrium is an unintentional consequence of scientific sociology or some other benign feature of history.

A recent book by science historian Londa Schiebinger, "Has Feminism Changed Science?" explores the history of science and tries to determine why such a small number of women have managed to achieve scientific prominence and why women have success in some scientific fields and not in others.

Schiebinger says that feminism has brought remarkable changes to science. She explores the history of science, both as a profession and as a body of knowledge, and the relationship between gender and the content of science.

Over the course of history, Schiebinger says numerous factors have contributed to the level of acceptance and exclusion of women in science. The conditions of political climate and the role of the family in relation to the economy have played crucial roles in the history of female scientists.

During some periods in history, women have been actively excluded from science simply on the basis of gender or of cultural assumptions that women would not be capable or beneficial to the developing industry. At other times, most notably during World War II, women were actively recruited into scientific academics.

Schiebinger notes that many of the norms of science were developed in the absence of female influence simply because they were historically excluded from involvement in the field. As we have moved into the modern area, this history of exclusion has made it difficult for women to become involved in some areas of scientific study.

Also examined in Schiebinger's book is the current participation of women in certain scientific disciplines. Many women have become involved in disciplines like primatology and sociobiology because these are relatively young fields, providing researchers with the ability to work alone. This is important because women often find themselves as outsiders of the scientific community. By contrast, physics is a field that is still overwhelmingly dominated by men. Each year, women earn only .13 percent of doctoral degrees in physics, and many academic physics departments have no women faculty.

Over the years, some historians have made the bold claim that women stay away from some fields like physics because they are very "hard" sciences, meaning that they require a great deal of difficult computational competence and abstract thinking. Schiebinger attacks this argument intellectually, demonstrating that the biological sciences can often be as "hard" as and much more complex than physics or mathematics.

It has been suggested by some philosophers of science that some disciplines are simply unattractive to women because of differences in the ways males and females view the world and the accumulation of knowledge. Modern science, it has been suggested, works toward an intellectual control and physical domination of natural phenomena. Some philosophers have speculated that the desire to dominate and control nature is an innate feature of the male psyche, less appealing to the female mind.

Neuroscientist Candace Pert has been an outstanding critic of the intellectual domination of males in science. She claims that the male psyche is prone to certain underlying assumptions that have led to biases in modern scientific theories. For instance, Pert

claims that the modern view of the nervous system as the controller of the body has inherent male-centric connotations. She sees the nervous-control model as being a metaphoric set of penises that penetrate the tissues of the body and control the body.

Pert has spent a great deal of her career developing a theory of emotion and mind that moves away from the neuron-controlled model towards a more body-wide theory of mental activity.

In the modern scientific community, many female scientists still feel that they are not taken seriously by established scientific organizations or by many of their male colleagues. In addition, some female scientists have reported being conflicted with a duality of influence from their cultural upbringing, telling them that they must attempt to be mothers and wives before they can be professionals.

Well-known biologist Lynn Margulis has written about the difficulty of trying to fulfill all of the traditional female roles while attempting to maintain an active and successful intellectual career. In an essay published in her book "Slanted Truths," Margulis concludes that it is impossible for any person to meet all of the conflicting roles imposed by society and brought forth from his or her own desires. In her own life, Margulis says she chose the professional life and the role of mother while her role as wife suffered, leading her through three marriages.


All in all, female scientists have made very significant and important contributions to the history of science, but for many it has been an arduous road. Today, many fields enjoy active and important contributions from female scientists, although the demographics of science are still largely skewed towards male professionals. It is interesting to imagine the intellectual transformations that might arise from a more complete integration of women into mainstream scientific culture. The full acceptance of the historical and modern roles of women scientists might be as large a step toward scientific progress as any discovery of the last century. Female scientists may be able to bring a different and refreshing perspective to scientific debate, enlivening the next period of scientific development. Today is not the day to celebrate such an idealized vision of our intellectual world, but by bringing these issues into debate and into the consciousness of all those who love and follow science, someday that celebration might come.

# Fare Thoughts Ramen noodles can be gourmet

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH  
Editor-in-Chief

Although I probably shouldn't admit this, I use Ramen noodles all the time. Yes, those spirally, cheap-as-can-be noodles that come in the little plastic pouch. It's that weird soup-like dish your mom probably served you as a kid, and you loved it. Now, in adult society, we're supposed to snub our nose at such trivial matters.

Ramen actually means either



1. Asian instant-style deep-fried noodles that are usually sold in cellophane packages, sometimes with bits of dehydrated vegetables and broth mix.
2. A Japanese dish of noodles, small pieces of meat, vegetables and broth.

Well, I don't use the package of noodles to make soup, but I do use it with other foods. I start out by boiling them as instructed, except for adding in the package of flavored salt. They are perfect to mix with leftover Chinese food. Try mixing them with some chunked up ham and sprinkling them with cheese. Add broccoli and cooked chicken to the noodles in a skillet. Toss them with Italian dressing as a bed for grilled chicken or pork. Chill and use them in pasta salads or as a topping for regular salads.

One of my favorite ways to prepare Ramen noodles is to make them into a quick dinner with lots of flavor and little time.

QUICK CHICKEN CARBONARA

- 1 pkg. Top Ramen noodles
- 1 TBSP butter
- 1 boneless-skinless chicken breast
- 1/2 TBSP garlic, minced
- 1/2 TBSP salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper

1 can mushrooms, drained  
1 can sliced black olives, drained  
1/4 c. Real Bacon bacon bits (yes, the brand matters)  
1 c. cooked green peas  
1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1/2 c. water  
2 dashes Worcestershire sauce  
Parmesan cheese, grated

In a saucepan, boil 1 quart water. Add the noodles and boil for three minutes. Drain. Heat a heavy skillet, melt the butter over low heat, add garlic, salt and pepper. Toss in the noodles, mushrooms, olives, bacon bits and green peas. Stir in the cream of mushroom soup and water. Add the dashes of Worcestershire sauce. Heat thoroughly. Serve hot topped with grated Parmesan cheese.

BEEF STRIPS WITH ORANGE AND GINGER

- 1 lb. lean rump, fillet or sirloin steak, cut into thin strips
- 1 orange, rind and juice, divided
- 1 TBSP soy sauce
- 1 tsp. cornflour
- 1 in. fresh ginger root, finely chopped
- 2 tsp. sesame oil
- 1 large carrot, cut into matchstick strips
- 2 spring onions, thinly sliced
- 1 pkg. Ramen noodles

Place steak strips in bowl and sprinkle half of the orange rind and juice over the meat. Marinate for 30 minutes. Drain the liquid from the steak and reserve. Mix together steak, soy sauce, cornflour and ginger. Heat oil in preheated wok or large frying pan. Add steak and stir-fry for one minute, until lightly colored. Add carrot and stir-fry for two to three more minutes. Stir in spring onions and remaining orange juice and rind. Cook, stirring constantly, until boiling and thickened. Serve hot over prepared Ramen noodles or boiled rice.

Serves 4

I hope this inspires you to bring back an old favorite from childhood and reinvent it.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Village Idiots need to go

Editor:

I was already on edge Monday night while riding the Metrolink home. Two weeks ago I was sexually assaulted in the elevator at the Grand Metrolink station coming home from Spanish class. I was pinned in the corner; a man grabbed by breasts and pinched my nipples, a total stranger. Monday night was an attempt to deal with my fears, my anger and ride home alone. I read *The Current* to keep myself company. The article "The Village Idiots" sexually assaulted me again. Sexually assaulted in this month of women's history. Sexually assaulted by thinly veiled jokes about the use of "magic pills," "roofies" drugs used to rape and assault women. Assaulted by the objectification, the disrespectful

language and the sexual remarks. This assaulting writing has no place in *The Current*.

The authors—Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger—and the editors who allowed this to be printed need to take a serious look at the power of words.

"The Village Idiots" contributes directly to the objectification of and violence towards women. "The Village Idiots" have written for *The Current* long enough; I believe they should no longer contribute to the publication. *The Current* must stop contributing to violence, objectification and the assault of women. If *The Current's* editors cannot take this stance, then the university, which pays for the paper, should.

Jamie Smith

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Jamie Smith,

Since the above letter to the editor by Jamie Smith was directed to the Village Idiots, I let them answer the accusations in their column on page 14 of this issue.

I will, however, address two important issues in the letter:

- 1.) "I believe they [Jason Granger and Adam Bodendieck] should no longer contribute to the publication." This is a managerial decision; those are never discussed outside of the office in any manner.
- 2.) "If *The Current's* editors cannot take this stance, then the [U]niversity,

## Point / Counterpoint

### Does the filibuster of the judicial nomination of Miguel Estrada set a bad precedent?

#### From the left

By The College Democrats

There is great debate about Miguel Estrada's nomination to the D.C. circuit, the second highest court in the country. If Estrada is confirmed, he will be the first Hispanic to serve on that court. His academic and professional accomplishments place him with the elite attorneys in the United States; however, these are not enough to qualifying him for an appointment to the bench. Estrada falls short in that he has not expressed his views on controversial matters. His nomination seems to have caused everyone to criticize everyone else. This is a depressing view of politics in action.

President Bush nominated Estrada because he is Hispanic, because race matters for his re-election, yet he opposes affirmative action. That seems to be hypocritical. Republicans are accusing Democrats of being anti-Hispanic because the Democrats are opposing Estrada's opportunity, even though Estrada's confirmation would end the racial barrier on the bench. For Democrats, the concern is that, at this moment, the D.C. Circuit is made up of four conservative and four liberal judges, and Estrada's confirmation will tilt the balance to the right.

Even Hispanics are arguing about whether Estrada is Hispanic enough to represent them on the bench. Groups such as the Hispanic National Bar Association, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Business Roundtable are all Estrada supporters. Their position on this is that Bush will nominate a conservative person no matter what his/her race is, so America might as well have a person with brown skin in power rather than having a person who is white. Such groups believe that Estrada will represent Hispanics whether they agree with him or not, whether he is conservative or liberal,

or whether they like him or not. This position supports Affirmative Action in that it will tear down racial barriers, provide minority role models and cure past discrimination. On the other hand, groups like the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus oppose Estrada's nomination. Their opposition rises from the fact that Estrada has not done anything to help young Hispanics, such as internships or mentorship programs. Another reason they oppose him is that he does not associate with the Hispanic community. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus said that Estrada has not shown a dedication to defending the rights of Hispanics through his career or volunteer activities; he has not shown that he will expand the progress on civil rights and liberties or advance opportunities for Hispanics in the legal arena. Estrada has also said that his race will be irrelevant as a judge. This type of thinking takes away from the only justification that counts for Affirmative Action in reference to the law, which is that racial preferences produce a diversity of experience. If being Hispanic is irrelevant to him, then Affirmative Action is also irrelevant concerning the argument that Hispanics supporting Estrada make.

There is a definite division between race and ideology — which one matters more? Hispanics who are Democrats probably have it the worst in this issue because, as a Hispanic person, you would want to see someone who looks like you on the bench, but as a Democrat you want someone with the same ideology as yours. Even though Hispanics claim they support or oppose Estrada, deep inside they have to be torn.

#### From the right

By The College Republicans

The question that is now before us is whether or not the filibuster of the judicial nomination of Miguel Estrada sets a bad precedent. As we look at the history of our nation, no appeals court nomination has been blocked in this way. The Founding Fathers debated whether or not to have a simple majority or to have a super majority in regards to judicial approval of nominations. Well, all that is needed is a simple majority. All this filibuster does is set a very dangerous precedent, with the President's nominations not sitting on the bench for a very long time. One of the main complaints during the Clinton Administration is that there were so many judicial openings and that the Republicans were blocking the nominations in committee. But if we think that filibustering a nomination on the floor of the Senate is going to get more nominations passed, we are mistaken. All that we have heard from the Democrats in regards to the current situation of Miguel Estrada is that they do not "know enough." But during the time after the formal questioning before committee and the vote of the committee, only two Senators gave him written questions. It appears that they are not exactly making an effort to get to know Miguel Estrada.

The problem with the aforementioned actions is that the Democratic Party is taking a very dangerous path. If we look at the language of the Constitution, nominations are brought before the Senate for advice and consent. The way in which the Democrats are now saying is the advice and approval of the Senate. This filibuster of a judicial nomination is just another instance, in a long line of instances, of obstruction of the business to be done of and for the people. Usually when a nomination

comes to the floor of the Senate or she is approved. Lest we forget that there was even a threat of filibuster by the Democrats in the Senate when John Ashcroft was up for Attorney General.

Whatever happened to the tradition of deference going to the President? In a body that is steeped in tradition, why have we stepped so far away from the traditions of the Senate? Why is it that when we have a conservative up for a nomination the minority must object to the nomination in this way? The Democrats say that Miguel Estrada is not in touch with the mainstream of the country, but how do we define what is mainstream? Apparently, with the precedents that may very well be set forth here, anybody who agrees with the viewpoints of the Democratic Party is who is in the mainstream. But really, should the minority have this power to block the nomination of the President on the floor? If you are going to block a nomination block it in committee and not with a filibuster on the floor of the Senate.

We can see that the filibuster of the nomination of Miguel Estrada on the floor of the Senate is very wrong and should not be going on. The precedent that is apparently being set, that of any one party being able to block nominations, is wrong. This will just be the first in a long line of things that the minority will be doing to block any conservative from getting on any court. This is very wrong for the minority to do.

Have an opinion?  
Love us?  
Hate us?  
Write us  
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Comment on this and  
more by writing  
The Current at  
current@jinx.umsl.edu



STAFF EDITOR

NICHOLE LECLAIR  
Features Editor

phone: 516-4886  
fax: 516-6811

UM-St. Louis  
salutes feminist  
pioneers, legends

BY ASHLEY RICHMOND  
Staff Writer

March celebrates women, but who has helped shape the women of UM-St. Louis?

Some University females celebrate their role models in March, Women's History Month.

Rachel Rader, junior, business administration, admits that her mother has been her role model.

"It wasn't until I was older that I realized my mother [had such an impact]," Rader said. "She went back to college after three kids and got a nursing degree."

Accomplishing that feat, according to Rader, earned her mother a lot of respect. "Everyone loves and respects her. She takes care of everyone." This includes being the primary caregiver for Rader's grandfather. "Of [grandfather's] seven kids, she is the only one that takes care of him," Rader said.

Other students admire relatives as well. Stephanie Pitts, junior, communications, admires her aunt.

"She has raised two kids while working as the executive producer for The Early Show," Pitts said, noting the incredible career path her aunt has taken while overcoming racial obstacles.

# St. Patrick's Day: Not just for beer, corned beef

## History behind the holiday more than meets the eye

BY KATE DROLET  
Staff Writer

St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, regarded himself as a pagan until he was sixteen years old. Since his influential missionary work in Ireland approximately 1600 years ago, countries around the world have celebrated St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick, whose birth name was Maewyn, was born in Scotland around AD 385. When he was sixteen, a group of Irish raiders invaded his village and sold him into slavery. During the six years Maewyn was held captive in Ireland, his spirituality thrived, and he found himself closer to God.

After he escaped, he studied with St. Germain, the bishop of Auxerre, for twelve years. During his instruction in the monastery, he changed his name from Maewyn to the Christian name of Patrick. Once Patrick completed his studies, he felt called to convert Irish pagans into Christians. He returned to Ireland and was appointed as the second bishop of the country. After thirty years of mission work, Patrick died on March 17, AD 461.

A common symbol of St. Patrick's Day is the shamrock, which is the plant that Patrick supposedly used to explain the Christian concept of the Trinity to pagans. Another familiar symbol of the holiday is the leprechaun, which originates from the old Irish word "luchorpan" meaning "little man." The legend behind the little man reveals that each one has a pot of gold. If a person manages to

catch one of these mischievous creatures, the leprechaun must grant him three wishes. However, if the captor glances away from the leprechaun, it will escape.

Another possible origin of the leprechaun relates back to the Euro-Celtic sun god, Lugh (pronounced "Luck"). Lugh was an extremely important figure to the Euro-Celts, and many European cities were named after him, including London, Leon and Lyons.

"My favorite thing to do on St. Patrick's Day is pinch people [who aren't wearing green]," said Carissa Butler, sophomore, communications.

The tradition of pinching those who forget to wear green came about long ago. Irish people would wear green on the holiday to pay tribute to their native country. The Irish children began the playful custom of pinching those who didn't don the green.

The Irish citizens have celebrated St. Patrick's Day since the saint's death in their land. On March 17, families go to church in the morning and celebrate the holiday in the afternoon and evening. Since St. Patrick's Day falls during Lent, the religious ban on meat is put aside, and the Irish people eat a traditional dish of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Today, St. Patrick's Day parades are held all over the world. The first was when Irish soldiers marched through New York in 1762 to celebrate the holiday and embrace their heritage. The United States, Canada and Australia, along with Ireland, generally host the largest celebrations. Countries such as Japan and Russia also celebrate St. Patrick's Day.



Lishu Qu/The Current

UM-St. Louis participated in the annual downtown St. Patrick's Day parade Saturday with a float (ferried by an UMSL shuttle) and a contingent of UMSL students and faculty. Fifteen marching bands, 120 floats, and 5000 marchers took part in this year's parade. Thousands of excited parade-goers crowded along the parade route, which began at Broadway and Market Street and ended just past Union Station at 23rd Street.

In 1995, the Irish government decided to take advantage of the tourism opportunities presented by this holiday. In 2002, over one million people flocked to Ireland to take part in the annual St. Patrick's festival in Dublin. The festival, which lasts for several days, features parades, con-

certs, outdoor theatre productions and fireworks displays.

The University of Missouri-Rolla holds the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in Missouri with a week-long celebration that literally turns the town green. In addition to the events put on by UM-Rolla, the city spray

paints their main street shamrock green.

"I'm going to Rolla with a few friends for St. Patrick's Day. We're going to go down on Saturday and spend the day celebrating the holiday," said Lizzie Abraham, sophomore, communications.

## UMSL joins in St. Patrick's day parade



Lishu Qu/The Current

A young attendee to the annual downtown St. Patrick's Day parade wears a green headpiece with dangling Shamrocks Saturday afternoon.

BY KATE DROLET  
Staff Writer

Warm weather and sunshine graced St. Louis on Saturday, March 15, 2003. This year, the city celebrated the 34th annual parade with over 5000 marchers, 15 marching bands, 120 floats and enormous helium balloons. St. Louis also held the 25th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Run. Over 6,000 participants were expected, including competitive and non-competitive runners, walkers and wheelchair racers. An Irish feast was also held in honor of Batt O'Keefe, a visiting member of the Irish parliament.

Justin Kimble, sophomore, criminology, joined crowds in downtown St. Louis for St. Patrick's Day. "I walked in the parade with the UMSL float and enjoyed the nice weather," he said.

This year's parade began at noon and featured a variety of floats, marching bands and other Irish entertainment. Thousands of excited parade-goers crowded along the parade route, which began at Broadway and Market Street and ended just past Union Station at 23rd

Street. People showed their Irish spirit by holding up signs saying "Erin go braugh!" which means "Ireland forever."

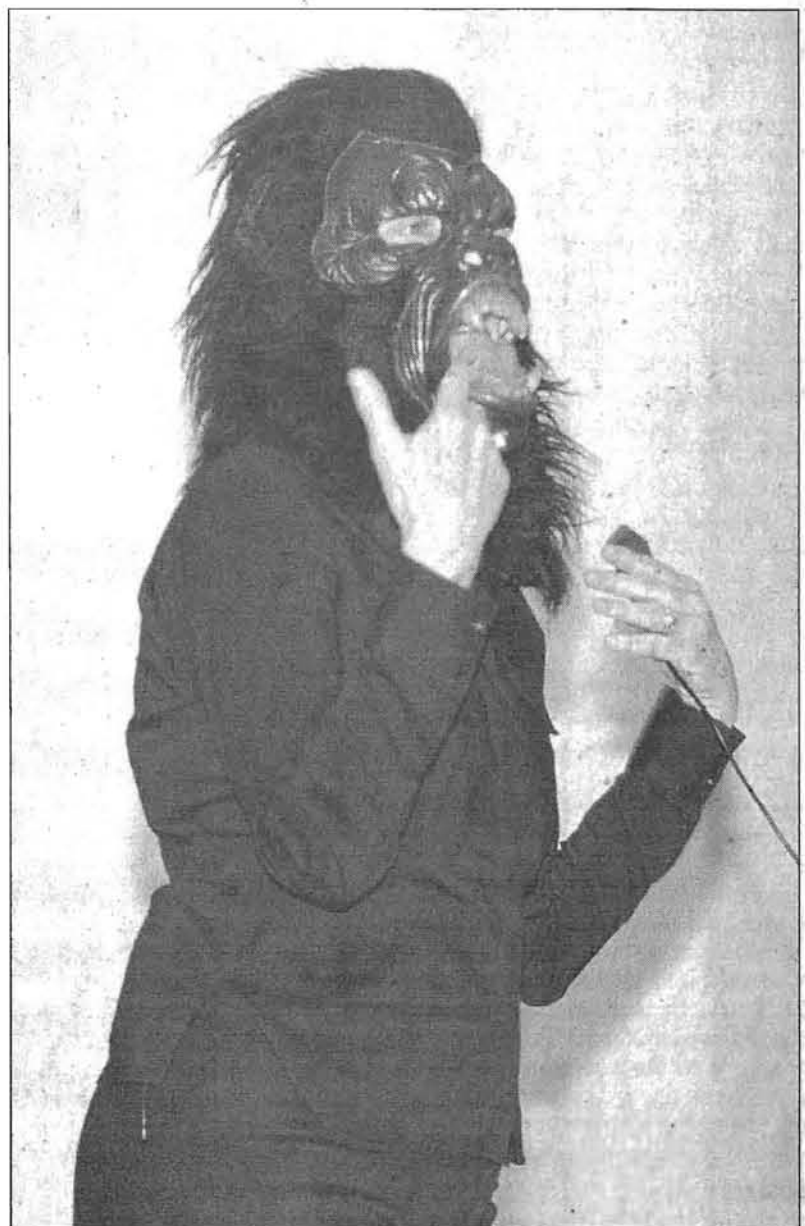
UM-St. Louis participated in the parade with a derby-themed float complete with a giant plastic horse, a slanted platform with small horses on it and Irish and American flags. A shuttle bus decorated in St. Patrick's Day signs, beads and tinsel pulled the float down the fifteen-block parade. Students, faculty and staff accompanied the float dressed in green UM-St. Louis shirts, beads, feather boas, derby hats, green hair and other green accessories. They walked along side of the moving display and danced along with the Irish music emanating from the float.

UM-St. Louis' Homecoming King and Queen joined a few costumed students and staff, including Blanche Touhill, former chancellor, on the float.

"I felt a great sense of pride and school spirit," said Homecoming King Jonas Zakour, sophomore, economics. "I had a really fun time in general."

This was the eighth year UM-St. Louis participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

## Guerrilla Girls bring feminist message to UM-St. Louis



Photos by Lishu Qu/The Current

The Guerrilla Girls, a New York-based, anonymous group of women artists, writers, performers and filmmakers who fight discrimination, delivered a performance and lecture Friday, March 7, in the Century Rooms of the MSC. The members wear gorilla masks and use humor and surprise to spread their opinions on feminism and the prevalence of racism and sexism in society.

In an interview in their book "Confessions of the Guerrilla Girls," the group states its reason for donning masks: "We joined a long tradition of (mostly male) masked avengers like Robin Hood, Batman, The Lone Ranger and Wonder Woman."



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SPORTS

# R-men sweep Lewis

**UM-St. Louis  
Rivermen  
Baseball**

**BY HANK BURNS**  
Sports Editor

In their first weekend of Great Lakes Valley Conference play, the UM-St. Louis baseball team gave Lewis a hint of what's in store for the 2003 season. Improving their record to 13-2 on the season, the Rivermen swept their conference rival in double-headers this weekend.

On Sunday, the Rivermen expanded their winning-streak to seven games by defeating Lewis with a 10-1 and 5-4. Riverman Colby Hughes picked up four hits for the day and was 3-3 at the plate in the first game. Hughes, who now has a 2-0 record, also notched a relief win in the second game of the doubleheader. Matt Kueny threw the third straight complete-game victory by a Rivermen pitcher, giving up one run and striking out three.

UM-St. Louis opened up conference play on Saturday by defeating Lewis 5-1 and 7-0. The pitching staff was the difference in the doubleheader as left-hander Kevin Sahrman and right-hander Greg Bierling each picked up complete-game victories. Sahrman struck out four and gave up four hits, while Bierling struck out six and gave up five hits.

Lewis Head Coach Irish O'Reilly said that the Rivermen played well in all areas of the game.

"They played great defense, and didn't make any mistakes," O'Reilly said. "We hurt ourselves all day long today. We've got to pick it up, field it and throw it a lot better than what we showed today. I give them a lot of credit."

"They played great defense and their pitchers threw strikes," O'Reilly continued. "They stayed competitive in the zone, hitting the ball. They took

advantage, and the running game helped them too. They got into a running game we couldn't ever get into." Rivermen Head Coach Jim Brady said that a strong performance in the first weekend of conference play is important.

"I think that, obviously, all that we've built, the entire foundation would be for naught if you turn around today and you get clubbed by these guys," Brady said, following Saturday's games. "The idea is to go out and do well in the conference. Finish as high in the conference as you can because that's going to determine whether or not you're going to be able to play in postseason play."

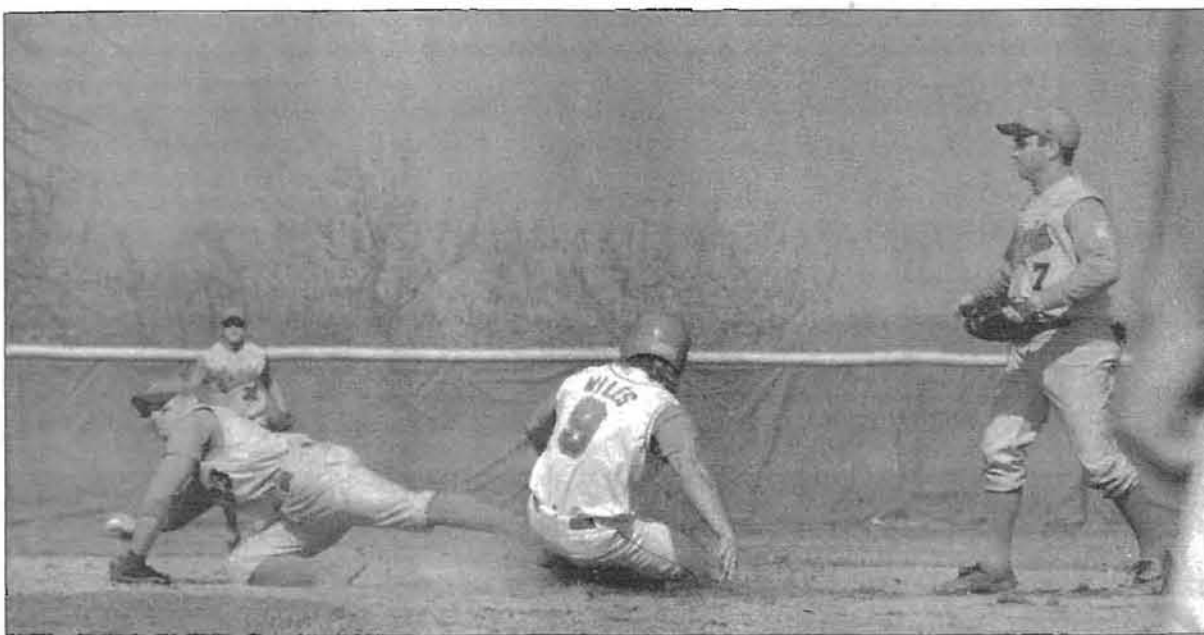
"It's important that we establish ourselves early so that we can have that great foundation," Brady continued. "At the end, as we play more and more, we'll be able to determine that if somebody beats us, it's because they were better, not because on that day we weren't quite as prepared as we should be."

Brady said that his team is looking to start winning quickly and continue to dominate the conference.

"I think that we can set the pace if we continue to build on this foundation," Brady said. "I've coached, and I've seen great teams and there's something about great teams, where you can't wait to play the next day because they're so much fun to watch. This team fits that profile. If we stay injury-free, they're going to amass some records. I really feel that way. I see some things happening that can be special."

According to Brady, one goal of the team is perfection.

"I want these kids to continue to believe in themselves because once they totally conquer that aspect of themselves, we'll coast," Brady said. "But I'm never going to let them forget where they came from. I've still got to get out there, and Deron's got to get out there and let them know that we're still looking to play the perfect game. That's our goal. We want to play that perfect game."



**ABOVE:** Lewis's Scott Miller (7) looks in dismay as UMSL catcher Douglas Wiles (9) slides in safely despite Lewis second baseman, Ahren Baranski's outstretched attempt to run Wiles out.



**RIGHT:** Lewis Pitcher Matt Petrussek throws to first base in order to run out UMSL outfielder Aaron Brown.

Photos by Kevin Ottley/The Current

## COACH'S CORNER

# Pitching is key for Rivermen in 2003

**UM-St. Louis  
Rivermen  
Baseball**

**BY HANK BURNS**  
Sports Editor

Winning might not be everything, but UM-St. Louis baseball Head Coach Jim Brady and his 2003 squad sure enjoy a good victory. As with every year of his 18 years of coaching, Brady looks forward to climbing to the top of NCAA's Division II.

Brady, a former Central Region Coach of the Year in 1993 and 1996, has seen quality teams come and go. Brady described this team as "special."

"If we go out and just worry about whoever we're playing that day and we go out and play the game the way that it's meant to be played," Brady said, "this team will definitely be in contention for some pretty special accolades by the end of the year."

This year's team will lean on their staff of 14 pitchers to lead them to postseason play. Brady said that the staff, which has four left-handed pitchers, should make a strong showing throughout the season. The following is a look at this year's pitching staff through the eyes of Brady.

### THE STARTERS:

**LHP Kevin Sahrman**

"I just think he's one of those diamonds in the rough that's just starting to come into his own," Brady said. "He showed it last year at St. Charles [Community College] and then carrying on last summer, and he just continues to get better and better. We're right at a perfect time. He's coming into his own, and I'm fortunate that I'm going to be able to reap the rewards of one of my ex-coaches, Bill Binsbacher, his

hard work."

**RHP Greg Bierling**

"We've got Greg Bierling is back to throwing the way that he was throwing a few years back before he had the injury," Brady said. "He just looks magnificent. He's a horse. He's a thoroughbred, and he's now prepared to take this team on his shoulders, and we're going to ride."

**LHP Matt Keuny**

"Matt Keuny, really last year, came on and showed us some things as a freshman," Brady said. "We've got him and another lefthander in the starting rotation, and he's another guy that's been very dependable."

**RHP Bobby Tiefenauer**

"Bobby Tiefenauer has looked exceptional now that he's become more of a starter, where he kind of knows what to expect. If he just lets everything fly and shows that belief in himself, he's another one that can be a dominant pitcher for me. He's got great stuff, and all he has to do is trust himself."

**RHP Steven McCoy**

"He's just a sophomore, and he had a great, stellar year as a freshman at Mineral Area [College] and sat out a year because he had an arm injury," Brady said. "Now he's back and Bubba shows me flashes of being a very capable pitcher at this level, and it's just a matter of tweaking his mechanics and getting everything down in sync. Once he's there, I think he's going to be very effective for us."

**RHP Todd Katz**

"He didn't get much of an opportunity at [Jefferson College]," Brady said. "He is an outstanding sinkerball pitcher. He is perfect for this league.

Those hitters will beat the ball into the ground when he pitches. He has made such remarkable progress in such a short time. I'm just ecstatic for what he brings to the table. He's a pleasant surprise, and he'll be one of our top five guys. His brother is Brett Katz, our third baseman from last year."

### THE RELIEF CORPS:

**LHP Pat McNichols**

"He was very effective for us down in Florida," Brady said. "He gave us some quality innings and just pitched the one day where he threw an inning or two, and then he came back and pitched for six innings and really competed, and that's what we have to have."

**RHP Josh Green**

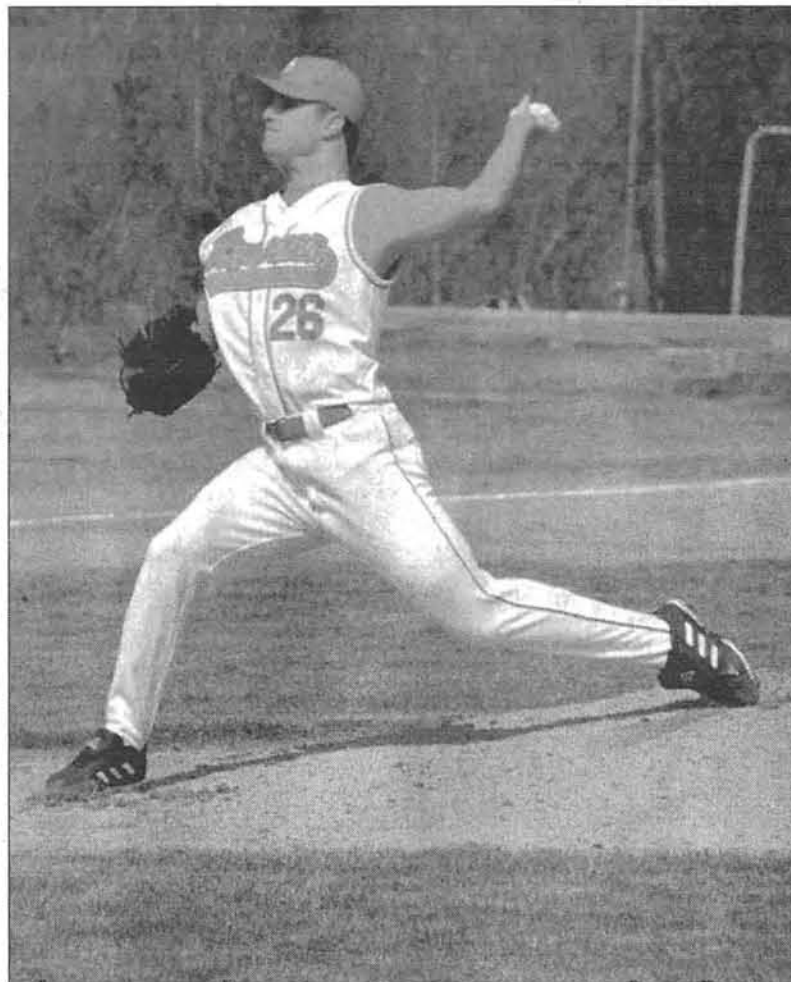
"He's one of my relievers, and he comes from down under," Brady said. "He came in down in Florida, and he pitched us out of two serious jams. He just came in and did his job, had them hit double-play balls. He's an asset out there that I can go to."

**RHP Colby Hughes**

"He's my trump card," Brady said. "I can use Josh [Green] to set up one day or I can have Josh close one day, but I've always got Colby out there that I can go to. Depending on the day or the situation, he's the guy I'll call on. If I've got to get three or four innings out of him, I can. Colby's that good and that reliable."

### The Closer

"I would say that [Hughes] and Josh Green kind of share that role," Brady said. "It depends on the situation. I've been using Josh to set up and close. Colby, he'll close when it has to be done. I've got the best of both worlds. I can rely on either one of them."



Kevin Ottley/The Current

**In almost flawless form, UMSL Pitcher Kevin Sahrman readies his stance and releases the baseball.**

## GLVC • Upcoming games

Mon., Mar. 17	Wed., Mar. 19
Bellarmine at Oakland City (DH), 1 p.m.	• Noon - *Kentucky-Wesleyan @ SIUE (DH)
<b>Tue., Mar. 18</b>	• 1 p.m. - *Indianapolis @ Northern Kentucky (DH)
• 10 a.m. - Wisconsin-Parkside vs. Kutztown	• 1 p.m. - *Saint Joseph's @ Lewis (DH)
• 2 p.m. - Lewis at Valparaiso	• 3 p.m. - *Southern Indiana @ Bellarmine (DH)
6 p.m. - Brescia @ Kentucky-Wesleyan	
* - denotes official conference game	

## SOFTBALL UPDATE

# R-women go 3-2 at William Woods tourney

**UM-St. Louis  
Riverwomen  
Softball**

**BY WILL MELTON**  
Staff Writer

The Riverwomen softball team rolled into Jefferson City for the William Woods Tournament this weekend hungry for wins. The season has

had some trouble getting off the ground due to the weather, but this weekend the sun was out, and the women got some solid game time.

Game one on Saturday pitted the Riverwomen against Hannibal-LaGrange. Kim Kulaitis blasted a solo homerun to put the Riverwomen up 1-0. Maria Gaertner added some insurance with an RBI, and they picked up the 2-0 victory, with pitcher Casey Moran getting the win.

Next up, the Riverwomen took on

Culver-Stockton. Despite the energy from the first win, the ladies were unable to keep the momentum going and fell 3-0. Pitcher Danielle Moore received the loss.

UM-St. Louis closed out Saturday on a high note and took down Mount Mercy College 2-0. Kim Kulaitis launched another two-run home, and Pitcher Casey Moran was credited with the victory.

Sunday saw a hard-fought game between the Riverwomen and

Columbia College. Kulaitis continued her offensive onslaught and smacked another homerun. "She had the hot bat," shortstop Savanna Adams commented on the offensive effort of Kulaitis. Catcher Heather Burr also had some game at the plate going 3-3. Unfortunately, Columbia squeaked by with an upsetting 5-4 win. Casey Moran got the loss.

The final game was against William Woods, and the ladies were 2-2 for the tournament. This game was a battle.

"We had to go to an international tiebreaker in the eighth inning," Adams stated. It drove on into the ninth when Casey Moran drove in Kim Kulaitis for the game winning RBI to give the Riverwomen a 7-6 win. Outfielder Tiffany DeWald went 3-5 for the day. Pitcher Jamie Beucke came into the game in the fourth and snatched up the win.

Next up for the Riverwomen is Tuesday's away game against Lindenwood University at 3 p.m.

## EDITOR

**HANK BURNS**  
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

## COMING UP

**Baseball**  
March 19

• 3 p.m. @ Quincy

22

• Noon @ Bellarmine [DH] in Louisville, Ken.

23

• Noon @ Bellarmine [DH] in Louisville, Ken.

24

• @ Kentucky State Time to be announced

26

• 2 p.m. @ SIUE in Edwardsville, Ill.

**Softball**  
March 18

• 3 p.m. @ Lindenwood [DH]

22

• Noon vs. Kentucky Wesleyan [DH]

23

• 2 p.m. @ SIUE in Edwardsville, Ill.

**Tennis**  
March 22

• 1 p.m. vs. Emporia State in Maryville, MO

**Golf**  
March 17  
Rivermen Invitational  
@ Wingham Country Club

## WEB

Check out the R-men and R-women sports at [www.ums-lsports.com](http://www.ums-lsports.com)

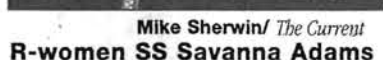


**Got what it takes to write Sports?  
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**BY WILL MELTON**  
*Staff Writer*

"I really want to come in and turn this program around because they've just been kind of mediocre the past few years," Adams said. "I know Coach Durmin's goal is to be the top Division II team, and I'm right there with her because I just came from a winning program, and I don't want to

St. Louis was the choice for Adams when she was recruited out of Midland College. She's a native of Austin, Texas, and wanted to come to a school in the city rather than one of the small-town colleges that tried to sign her. Adams is settling into St. Louis, and like most Missourians, she has some issues with the weather.



"There's not too much to it," Adams said. "I'm not big on having to have a lot of money or anything."

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## EDITOR

**CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER**  
A&E Editor

phone: 516-4886  
fax: 516-6811

## A&E Calendar

## Movies

film openings are subject to change

MARCH 14

**Open Heart** - Israeli tale of romance that travels from Israel to India; in Hebrew

**The Safety of Objects** - Drama about the tensions below the placid surface of suburbia; from the best-selling book; one of the films from last year's film fest

**The Hunted** - action/drama about special-forces assassin on the run; starring Tommy Lee Jones and Emilio Del Toro; directed by William Friedkin (The Exorcist)

March 21

**Loverly Callar** - indie film starring Samantha Morton (Minority Report) as a 21-year-old aimless supermarket clerk in a small Scottish town whose life is transformed by a found ATM card and an unpublished novel; directed by Lynne Ramsay (Ratcatcher)

**He Loves Me He Loves Me Not** - French tale of deceit and innocence in a relationship between a young woman and an older man; stars Audrey Tautou of Amelie

**Boat Trip** - comedy starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. about two buddies whose love lives have hit rock bottom and decide to book a vacation cruise, unaware that it is a romantic cruise for gay men

**View From the Top** - comedy starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Christina Applegate and Mike Myers about a woman (Paltrow) who dreams of being a first-class international flight attendant

March 28

**All the Real Girls** - indie film about the trouble a local Romeo finds in a small town when he falls for his best friend's younger sister.

**The Core** - Action/Adventure starring Hilary Swank about a trip to the center of the earth to save the planet

**Basic** - Military/suspense/thriller, starring John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson about a group of elite forces; directed by John McTiernan (Die Hard)

## THEATER REVIEW

# 'The Boyfriend' is cute

BY SARA PORTER  
Features Associate

In this time of constant anxiety and worry over war, terrorism and other issues, it might be nice to see a musical that is nothing but lighthearted and silly. Some people may not agree, but I am not one of those people. "The Boyfriend," a musical composed by Sandy Wilson, directed by Milton Zoth and performed by the UM-St. Louis departments of theater, dance and music, provides all of the silliness and lightheadedness of musicals from the early 1900s and is performed with such energy that the audience cannot help but smile at the absurdity of it all.

The plot of "The Boyfriend" seems heavily borrowed from PG Wodehouse's Jeeves stories, with foolish Englishmen, silly young women, trips abroad, mistaken identities, smart aleck servants, older couples with secret romances and randy old men, in which everything is played for laughs; people say or assume the wrong thing at the wrong time, and of course, everybody turns out all right at the end with a marriage proposal or two (or in this case, six).

Set primarily in Madame Dubonnet's Finishing School for Fine Young Ladies in the 1920s, Polly Browne (Belinda Quimby), an Englishwoman, longs for a boyfriend like all of her other girlfriends have, but her pompous, foolish father, Percival (Kit Blanke), won't hear of it. He thinks any man who gets close to her only wants her for the money she will inherit. So she keeps her presumed romances secret, only confiding in Madame Kiki Dubonnet (Jennifer Vie), the schoolmistress, who has had an earlier affair of her own with Percival. On the day of the school's costume ball, Polly meets the possible man of her dreams in Tony (Joe Mosier), a delivery boy with the local costuming shop. The two fall in love at first sight and become very intimate with each other. In the meantime, Lord Brockhurst (Gerry Love), a womanizer, and his nagging wife, Lady Brockhurst (Cora Clemens), appear looking for their missing son, and Polly's friend Maisie (Angela Stehlick) plays hard-to-get with her



Belinda Quimby performs the role of "Polly" in the light-hearted musical production of "The Boyfriend" Thursday evening at the J.C. Penney Building.

boyfriend, Bobby Van Housen (Andrew Londel), who wants to dance and hopefully propose to the flirtatious girl.

The plot really isn't much. It's one of those stories where things are quickly brought forward and quickly

resolved while a lot of singing and dancing is going on. It's fairly easy to guess what is going to happen and doesn't lead to much suspense, but it doesn't matter. What "The Boyfriend" lacks in suspense and seriousness, it more than makes up for

with fun and spirit. And the spirit is almost exemplified by the performances, the dancing and the costumes.

The two leads, Polly and Tony, are a charming couple full of the typical innocence and naiveté of the boy-hero and girl-ingénue of musicals before and since. Mosier and Quimby sing very well and compliment each other extremely well in their solos "I Could Be Happy With You" and "A Room in Bloomsbury." They make a particularly cute couple, especially at the end in Tony's harlequin costume and Polly's angelic ballerina costume. Piourot and Piourette are perfect for this type of musical.

In every musical, the leads are only as good as their supporting characters, and "The Boyfriend" is no exception. In fact, "The Boyfriend" features supporting actors who are able to steal the scene from the leads every chance they get.

In this musical, the scenes were completely stolen by the two older couples, Dubonnet and Percival and the Brockhursts. As Kiki Dubonnet, Vic is the symbol of propriety to the girls, a surrogate mother figure to Polly and a bubbly, flirtatious woman in front of Percival. She is hilarious as she chases Percival around trying to get him to remember "The Night We Fell in Love." As the continuously flustered and embarrassed Percival, Blanke is the stereotypical Englishman, all throat clearing and "harrumphs." Hard to believe, Blanke is very young. Percival and Kiki stand out, and some of the best scenes in the musical are when they are alone, and the amorous Kiki is trying to get the straight-laced Percival's guard down.

The spotlight is equally grabbed by Love's Lord Brockhurst. With his small mustache and randy attitude towards the younger girls, he almost reminds the theatergoer of John Cleese of Monty Python fame. He is especially humorous as he sings "Never Too Old to Fall in Love" to a girl half his age. He chases girls with no shame but is held back by his wife. Although his thoughts are impure, he is so comic that it is hard to take his pursuits seriously, so the audience laughs with him instead of thinking

"what a dirty old man." As Lady Brockhurst, Clemens brings her character the usually haughtiness and imposingness of stereotypical Englishwomen. She has the role right as she orders her wayward husband back in place, scolding him as if he were a child.

Less interesting are the gaggle of young men and ladies, including Bobby, Maisie and their female and male friends (Tiara Rooks, Sarah Campbell, Kristyn Borus, Brijul Bhateka, Christopher Page and Aaron Charles Eliot-Kaufman). Though they give the play much spirit and fun with their lively acting and dancing, the script gives them very little to do but have the girls act giggly and airheaded and the men act flirtatious and at times lecherous. Though to their credit, the eight actors do give their limited roles the carefree spirit and joie de vivre of that time period, especially in numbers like "The Plague" and "The Charleston" as if their whole lives existed around nothing but dances, fun and falling in love.

Equally interesting but underdeveloped is Hortense (Charlotte Bergstrom) who is the school's proper maid. Her limited assignment is to be the confidante of all of the characters, to know things before everyone else does, but Bergstrom does it with such propriety and shock that she makes the most of her role.

The dancing and costumes were excellent, as they captured the flair of the 1920s perfectly. The performers danced soft-shoes and Charleston as though they were still regular dances, all because of choreographer Candy Duggan's well thought-out choreography. Theresa Doggett's costumes were a delight, too, especially during—what else?—the costume party, when each couple is dressed in similar styles, such as couples dressed in Arabian style, Renaissance style, Medieval style and Pre-French Revolutionary style. They are very detailed and beautiful to look at.

"The Boyfriend" may not be the most serious play, but in a time of real-life drama it's nice to just sit back, relax and laugh like nothing else is expected of you. And with this play, nothing else is.

## THEATER REVIEW

# 'Bat Boy' scores hit

BY STANFORD A. GRIFFITH  
Editor-in-Chief

Combining comedy and tragedy is seemingly impossible, just as the existence of a half-bat, half-boy creature is. New Line Theater, however, has successfully managed both especially well.

Based on a "true" story first reported in the Weekly World News in 1992, "Bat Boy" is the life tale of Edward, aka Bat Boy, played by Todd Schaefer, and the too-far-down-to-earth West Virginia townsfolk where he lives. His life is sad and repressed, but at the same time, it is hilarious. Several scenes had the audience members almost falling out of their seats with laughter.

Rick Taylor (Jeffery Pruett), his sister Ruthie (Angela Shultz) and his brother Roy (Nicholas Kelly) discover Edward in a cave. Edward comes to

live with Dr. Thomas Parker (Jason Cannon), his wife, Shelly Parker (April Lindsey), and their daughter, Meredith Parker (April Lindsey). The family, which has been falling apart for many years, takes care of Edward—each member with his and her own motives.

Adding to the comedy of the musical, many cast members—both male and female—dress in drag in parts of the play. The cast is fairly small, but this allows them to add several vivid characters who help move along the plot.

The musical has unexpected twists that lead to a somewhat Shakespearean ending. The plot moves along at a good pace; I didn't get bored once or even glance at my watch, yet I still felt like I got much more than the price of admission. It's a musical requiring some use of the viewer's imagination, which only makes the story pop off the stage even more.



Bat Boy Edward (Todd Schaefer) attacks Dr. Thomas Parker (Jason Cannon) in the musical "Bat Boy" at the Art Loft Theater. The musical runs every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through the end of March.

My only negative comment about this outstanding work is that Pruett was about 1/4 step off key during a couple of the earlier songs. Once that was fixed, however, everything else was at the top of excellence.

If you have the two hours and \$15

for regular admission or \$12 for student admission, be sure to catch this New Line Theatre production at the Art Loft Theatre on 1529 Washington St. Even if you hate musicals, you will not be disappointed by this one. Tickets are available from Metrotix at

(314) 534-1111 or online at [www.metrotix.com](http://www.metrotix.com). It runs every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through the end of March. This is a "do not miss" one; I was more satisfied by "Bat Boy" than by most of the productions I have seen at The Fox.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Bringing Down the House' brings down careers

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
A&E Editor



Steve Martin, Queen Latifah and Eugene Levy in Touchstone Picture's 'Bringing Down the House.'

Queen Latifah is marvelous in the movie "Chicago." Unfortunately, "Bringing Down the House" is no repeat of that experience.

Likewise, Steve Martin is a talented, even intelligent, man. He's written books and plays and has a degree in philosophy. Despite his brains, Steve Martin's work is hit and miss. The man who brought us countless excellent dramatic roles, the ahead-of-its-time "Pennies from Heaven" and the darkly comic "Novocaine" was also responsible for "The Man with Two Brains" and "The Jerk." Oh, my. Although Martin plays a restrained, straight-laced, type-A lawyer whose online romance has surprising consequences in this movie, "Bringing Down the House" has more in common with the brainless "Two Brains" than his better work.

Here's the story: Steve Martin plays Peter Sanderson, a recently divorced, successful lawyer who seems to be falling for another lawyer he met

in a computer chat room. While he has arranged to finally meet her face to face, he also has to win a new client, Mrs. Amess (Joan Plowright), a conservative tobacco heiress, to solidify his spot in the law firm. Of course, the online lawyer turns out to be ex-con Charlene (Queen Latifah), who now that she's there doesn't want to leave. While Sanderson is horrified by Charlene, his law partner Howie Rottman (Eugene Levy) is smitten, turning suddenly into a jive-talking Romeo. The story is the perfect combination of trite, tired, old ideas and completely unbelievable situations. Of course, they are going to throw in two kids for Charlene to corrupt, an ex-wife to bring up embarrassing situations and his ex-wife's gold-digging sister for that snob effect to enrage Charlene.

What is going on with this movie? Queen Latifah is listed as a producer on this movie, which is heavy on white-guys-can't-dance humor and has a surprising amount of what can only be called racial, maybe even racist, humor.



CONCERT REVIEW

# Stepping into stardom

BY AMY GONWA  
Music Critic

The Creepy Crawl was bursting with electrifying flavor from the moment the New Jersey-grown band Knuckle Sandwich took the stage. There was something electrifying about how the band grabbed the entire crowd by the ears and sucked them in. The Sunday, March 9, 2003 show was one full of faced-paced, raging brilliance.

The four diverse musicians that compose Knuckle Sandwich have successfully combined their individual talents by some in-your-face lyrics and crazy beats to produce a sound that is revolutionary. Their enraging and engaging stage presence was topped with a lead vocalist who is bursting with stardom. Richie filled the room with red-hot, blazing energy as he jumped in and out of the crowd during songs. A number of fans had the opportunity to wail into the mic

with him as he sang. "I want everyone in the crowd to feel the music and sing along—whether there are two people or twenty people," Richie explained to me.

I would have to say from what I saw at the show and heard on their debut release, "Nice," that the key to Knuckle Sandwich's success is their catchy lyrics, laid out over a fury of sound. People like to go to shows where they can dance around and feel like a part of the musical production, and these guys have devised a way to capitalize on this. They really connected with the crowd that night—they stirred everyone with their opening tunes and then shook us some more as the show rolled on. Also, what makes them strong is that they are made up of individually gifted and driven music-playing machines. The looks on Richie's, Jay's, Mike's and Bobby's faces said it all—they have achieved musical unity as individuals and as a group.

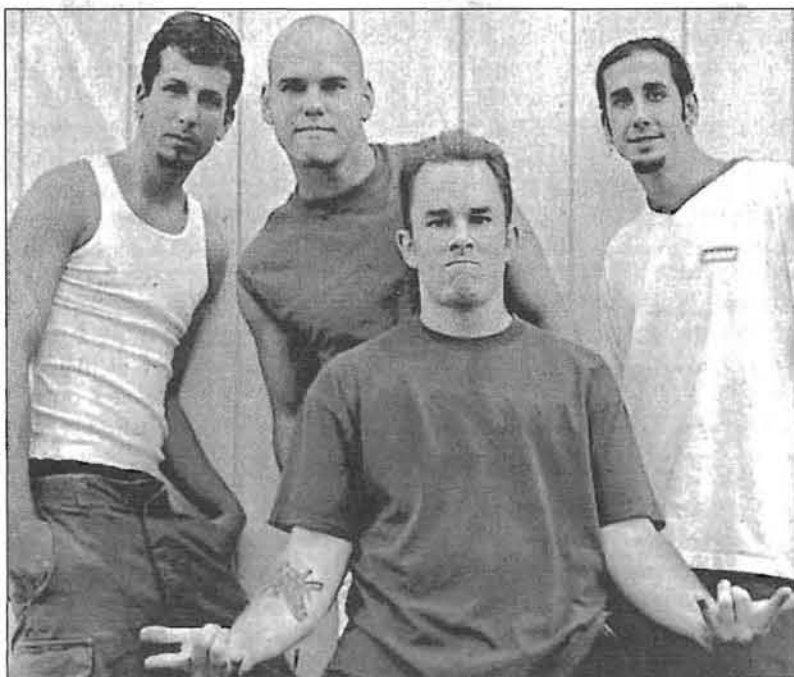


Photo courtesy www.resurrection-ad.com

Knuckle Sandwich, hailing from the Garden State, performed last Sunday at the Creepy Crawl.

From speaking with the guys before the show, I was taken aback by the respect for the relationships that music can provide. "We have all grown together as musicians," the drummer told me, and after seven years of playing music together, there is no doubt that they have had some great times together. And this binding strength is evident in the power behind the music that Knuckle Sandwich is producing. Their sounds force the listener into reflection and inspiration. "It's sad that it takes a tragedy to restore faith in humanity" is a line in "American Song" that is nothing less than eye-opening. The band explained to me that this ballad was a reaction to September 11, as each member had a personal relationship with the tragedy. The song was composed on September 12, 2001 by Richie in five minutes. "The whole thing hit me really hard," Richie said.

The musical undertones of Knuckle Sandwich are a blending of hardcore punk rock and eighties metal. The band looks to groups such as Bad Religion for their inspiration but keeps a strong hold on their idea that music is embodied in enjoyment. Guitarist Jason explained to me that "The only message I have is to have fun; that is what music is all about!" As the show rolled on, that is exactly what the whole place was doing, exploding in a wild experience. It was a crazy, defined mess of loud musical emotion at its best.

The St. Louis show was Knuckle Sandwich's seventeenth stop on their New York to California tour, which is the band's first exposure to the touring scene. Their trip has proved to be a success so far, and they plan to continue writing, recording, touring and tearing out tunes. The Creepy Crawl was greatly pleased with their performance, and I am sure that they gained several fans with their raging stage presence. So don't be the last one to know all about Knuckle Sandwich. You have got to check these guys out!

CONCERT REVIEW

# Punk rock refinement

BY AMY GONWA  
Music Critic

Hyphen-O is one local band that you must check into. Their music is a defiant blend of raging punk rock and gut-wrenching ska rhythm. Hyphen-O laughs in the face of the popular passive music scene while defining its own sound.

These four high-school seniors are on an earth-shaking mission to provoke change. Carrying a high regard for musical technicality, Hyphen-O crosses all the boundaries to create a renovated punk movement. It is not only the music that moves them but also the several issues that they take strong stands on, supporting causes such as animal rights, public education and peace with Iraq. Hyphen-O feels so strongly about their humanitarian issues that they even went so far as to donate proceeds from their first demo to support AIDS research. The band gathered over two-hundred dollars for the cause, and this is only the beginning of their road to innovation.

"We don't oppose the war, we oppose the state," read the sign propped up on a speaker when I saw Hyphen-O perform at the Creepy Crawl on March 9. I was instantly blown away by the powerful message accompanied by a dazzling performance. The band retrieved the sign

from a recent anti-war protest (Band members are frequent marchers). "We have gone from our beginning, when we wrote about girls and stuff, to today where we write about politics and society," lead vocalist Joe Grove told me. Grove went on to explain, "And all of us like all kinds of music from Neil Young to the Suicide Machines." Hyphen-O eloquently combines each member's interests and talent to create their riveting musical noise.

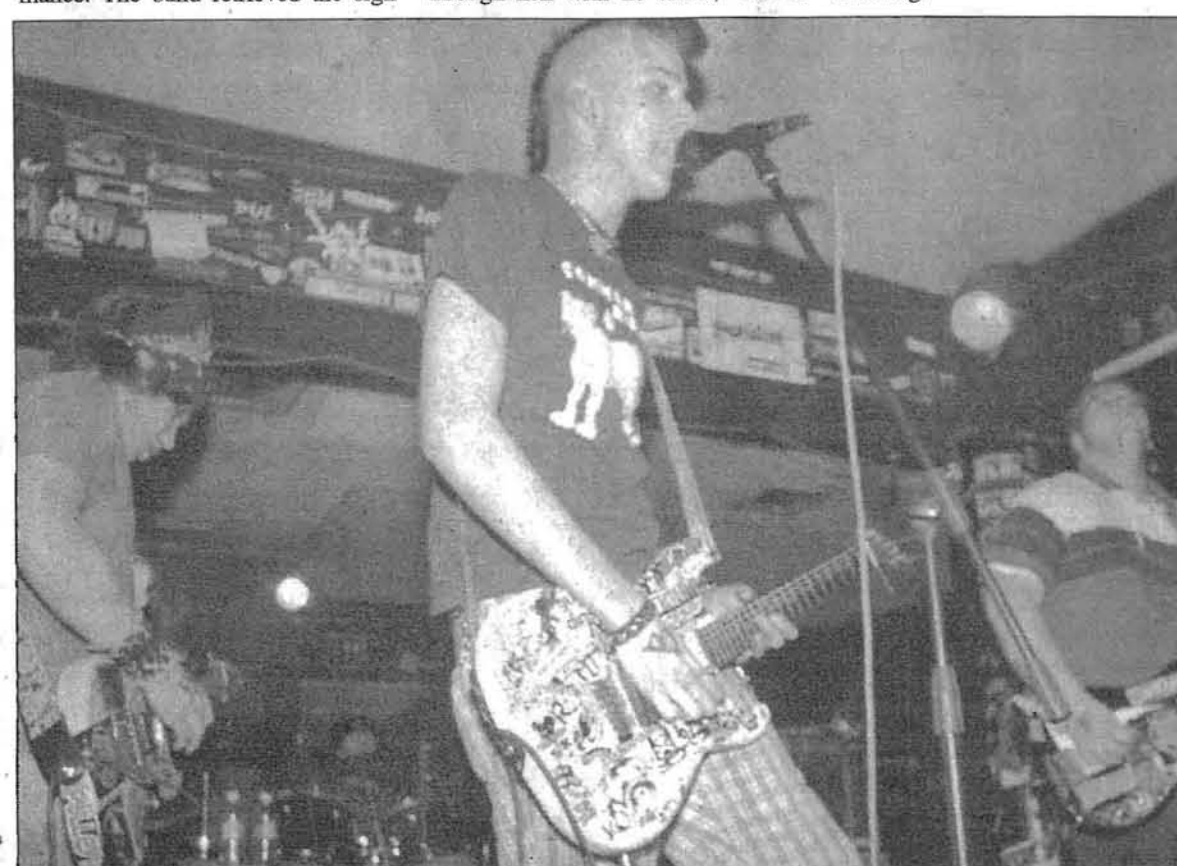
Hyphen-O is blazing with inner-band connections—these crazy dudes compliment each other very effectively. Maybe it is because Chris Brown (guitar), Joe Grove (vocals), Jesse McCallum (bass) and Justin Turigilatto (drums) all emerged from within the boundaries of small town Staunton, IL. Or maybe they just had a shining streak of luck in coming together at the right time and rising to the opportunity. Either way, this only marks the beginning of these four guys' road to stardom.

The quartet plans to stay together forever and to begin touring this summer—traveling from Seattle to as far as their talent takes them. Hyphen-O has all of the necessary elements essential for musical fame: loads of energy, moving lyrics, precise instrumentals and enigmatic vocals. STL Punk describes the group as "a walk through hell with no shoes," and it

could hardly be said any better than that. It is not as though these are hell-raising characters; they are actually very nice guys, but their music is unearthly tormenting.

I picked up the band's newest demo release at their show, which seems to outline Hyphen-O's potential. Most demos do not impress me, but their CD did not leave my car stereo for two days straight. With songs like "Protest Song" and "Arrogance and Ignorance," the compilation is sure to catch the ear of a producer. Grove enlightened me to the fact that guitarist Chris Brown does the majority of the lyrical writing process on his own, as he is the "brains of the group." The demo is full of guitar riffs that will make your heart pound and dangerous vocal introductions that will catch anyone's attention. Who would have thought that something like this would spring out of two high school kids, Joe and Jesse, playing covers in a living room with a dream of the future?

Hyphen-O is off to a great start, and they are regulars of the St. Louis punk rock scene, so they are easy to find. You can catch Hyphen-O's musical stylings at the Lemp Art Center on March 29, where they will be joined by local band Nineteen. Don't miss out—these guys are electrifyingly hardcore and maniacally amazing!



Sara Quiroz/The Current

Chris Brown (left), Joe Grove (middle) and Jesse McCallum, three of the four members of Hyphen-O, are all high school seniors from Illinois.

AWARDS PREVIEW

## Harder than it looks

# Predicting the Oscars

For those looking for a night of escapism, as a break from the news and world events, there are the upcoming Academy Awards. Predicting the winners of the Oscars should be easy, shouldn't it? The best film of the year or the best actor or actress of the year should be obvious, or at least the leader in the races should be fairly apparent to those who have seen the nominated films. Just find out which films most people liked or which films the critics rated highest. Maybe check all those top ten lists of last year's films. But no, nothing that simple would work with the Academy Awards, which are scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 23.

Despite the consensus of your friends or film critics, the Academy Awards are often inscrutable. They aren't a popularity contest (although big success at the box office helps); they aren't an evaluation of artistic quality (although critical acclaim helps too). No, instead they are a weird sort of balanced equation by Hollywood insiders - the Academy - based on past awards and performances or on if one of your friends is among the nominees. And how does one get into the Academy? Win an Oscar. It is the ultimate insider voting, often by people who haven't even seen the nominated films (Really, they aren't required to see them) but who may personally know the people who made the film. Winning the award means real money at the box office or later in rentals. There is great temptation to vote for your friends, for the director whose films of previous years were overlooked or for that actor who should have won last year (even if this year's film wasn't so good)—all things unknowable to the rest of us.

In 2002, an amazing crop of outstanding, late-season films made up for a year that seemed to offer few likely candidates for Oscars. Hopefully this isn't a new trend, or we'll have to wait all year, every year, for good big-budget films. Unlike some years, this year's nominees are all worthy of the awards, so now we have a legitimately tight race, along with the usual mysterious aspect of predicting Oscars. Nonetheless, we will try to predict the Oscars. And as has become the tradition, we will also tell you who we think should win the gold statue. However, in order to avoid being as long as the Oscar ceremony itself, we will limit our educated guesses to just the most popular categories: Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress, Supporting Actor, Supporting Actress, plus two more - Documentary and Foreign Film.

**Best Picture**  
**Nominees:** Chicago, Gangs of New York, The Hours, The Pianist, and Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Rings.  
**Most Likely Winner:** Chicago  
**Should Win:** The Pianist  
**The Scoop:** Chicago is sweeping all the pre-Oscar awards, is a hit with a broad audience and did okay critically. It is a straight-out entertaining film. In some years, that would be enough, but this year has a lot of serious heavy-hitters, films with both box office and critical success. The literary The Hours has a lot going for it. All the films have fine performances, although The Two Towers is the weakest one in the crowd, and Gangs of New York has some flaws in areas where it doesn't look like the great Scorsese was in charge (despite his denials that anyone tampered with his film). Scorsese is one of two modern giants of filmmaking in this field of nominees, the other being Roman Polanski. The Pianist is a Polanski masterpiece, one of his best films, and on strictly artistic merits, it deserves to win. It won't because of Polanski's unsavory personal history—many years ago, he was convicted of statutory rape and fled the country to avoid jail. The now-grown teen forgave him, but the U.S. government did not. Some people feel it is wrong to recognize an artistic work if the artist is a seriously flawed person, but I think that only



Photo courtesy Miramax Films

Nicole Kidman as Virginia Woolf and Stephen Dillane as Leonard Woolf in "The Hours."



Photo courtesy Miramax Films

Daniel Day-Lewis and Leonardo DiCaprio in Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York."



Photo courtesy Columbia Pictures

When screenwriter Charlie Kaufman (Nicolas Cage) tries to adapt The Orchid Thief to the screen, he develops a serious case of writer's block in Columbia Pictures' "Adaptation."

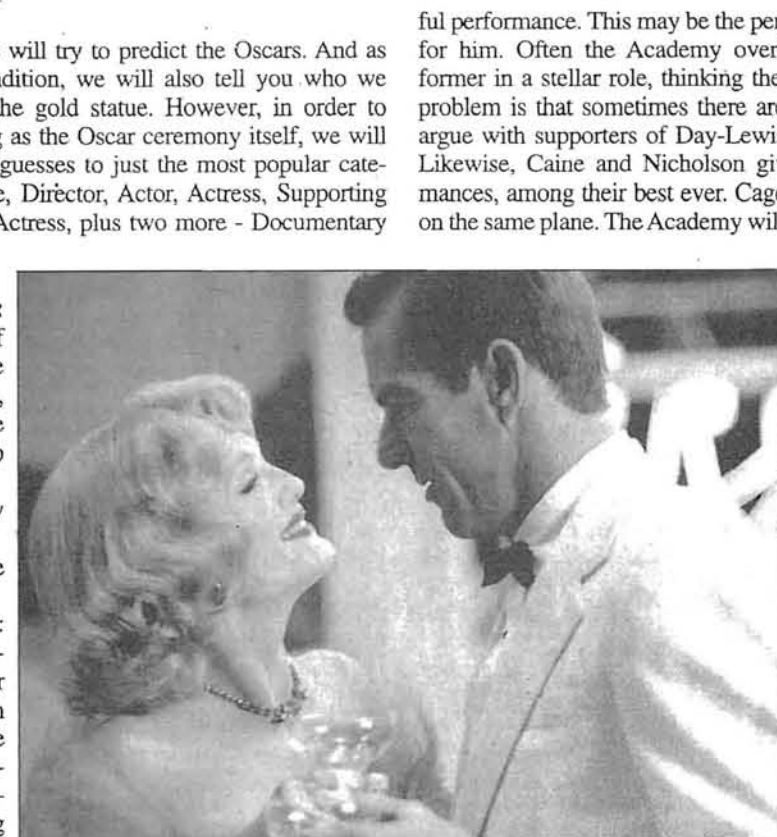


Photo courtesy Focus Features

Julianne Moore and Dennis Quaid star in Todd Hayne's "Far From Heaven."

are all remarkable performances, nearly every one worthy of winning. But to me, Kidman was by far the most startling and remarkable, and her performance was part of why her film worked so well. Julianne Moore turns in a perfect recreation of a fifties melodramatic actress in "Far from Heaven," but I could never warm up to this academic exercise that was the darling of some critics. Hayek was great in a visual treat of a biopic, as was Lane in a well-done, old-fashioned noir film. If anything, Zellweger, as good as she is, was not as remarkable in her role as the other nominees. I think the Academy will throw another winner to the profitable "Chicago," but there is a chance it will go to Kidman or even Moore.

matters if the flaw is reflected in their work. Polanski deserves some recognition; Leni Riefenstahl (the Nazi propaganda filmmaker) does not.

**Best Director**  
**Nominees:** Roman Polanski for The Pianist, and Pedro Almodovar for Talk to Her  
**Most Likely Winner:** Martin Scorsese  
**Should Win:** Roman Polanski

The Scoop: Really, film is a director's medium, and the director is the author of the film, so Best Picture and Best Director should agree. But often that's not how the Academy sees it—sometimes the films and directors nominated don't even agree. There is only one mismatch this year, where "Talk to Her" was not included in the Best Picture category, although it is a stronger film than "The Two Towers." However, the "making up for past oversights" factor may be the strongest element here, with the revered but Scorsese taking home the really Polanski's film prize. He deserves recognition, but was stronger and deserves the win.

**Best Actor**  
**Nominees:** Adrien Brody for The Pianist, Daniel Day-Lewis for Gangs of New York, Nicholas Cage for Adaptation, Michael Caine for The Quiet American, and Jack Nicholson for About Schmidt  
**Most Likely Winner:** Daniel Day-Lewis  
**Should Win:** Adrien Brody, Daniel Day-Lewis, Michael Caine or Jack Nicholson.

The Scoop: What a year for both actors and actresses! This was a year when, whether the film was one of the great ones or not, the performances were incredible. All these nominated actors are deserving of this award. I inclined slightly to Brody, but I listed the rest, in descending rank order. I favored Brody because so much of the film rested on him and it was a skillful, underplayed, and nuanced but powerful performance. This may be the performance of a lifetime for him. Often the Academy overlooks a younger performer in a stellar role, thinking there will be others. The problem is that sometimes there aren't. Still, it is hard to argue with supporters of Day-Lewis for his riveting turn. Likewise, Caine and Nicholson give spectacular performances, among their best ever. Cage is good but not quite on the same plane. The Academy will honor Day-Lewis not just for his work but as another recognition for Scorsese's film. It's a shame they can't all win.

**Best Actress**  
**Nominees:** Salma Hayek for Frida, Nicole Kidman for The Hours, Diane Lane for Unfaithful, Julianne Moore for Far From Heaven, and Renee Zellweger for Chicago  
**Most Likely Winner:** Renee Zellweger  
**Should Win:** Nicole Kidman

The Scoop: Hard to call. Like the best actor category, these are all remarkable performances, nearly every one worthy of winning. But to me, Kidman was by far the most startling and remarkable, and her performance was part of why her film worked so well. Julianne Moore turns in a perfect recreation of a fifties melodramatic actress in "Far from Heaven," but I could never warm up to this academic exercise that was the darling of some critics. Hayek was great in a visual treat of a biopic, as was Lane in a well-done, old-fashioned noir film. If anything, Zellweger, as good as she is, was not as remarkable in her role as the other nominees. I think the Academy will throw another winner to the profitable "Chicago," but there is a chance it will go to Kidman or even Moore.



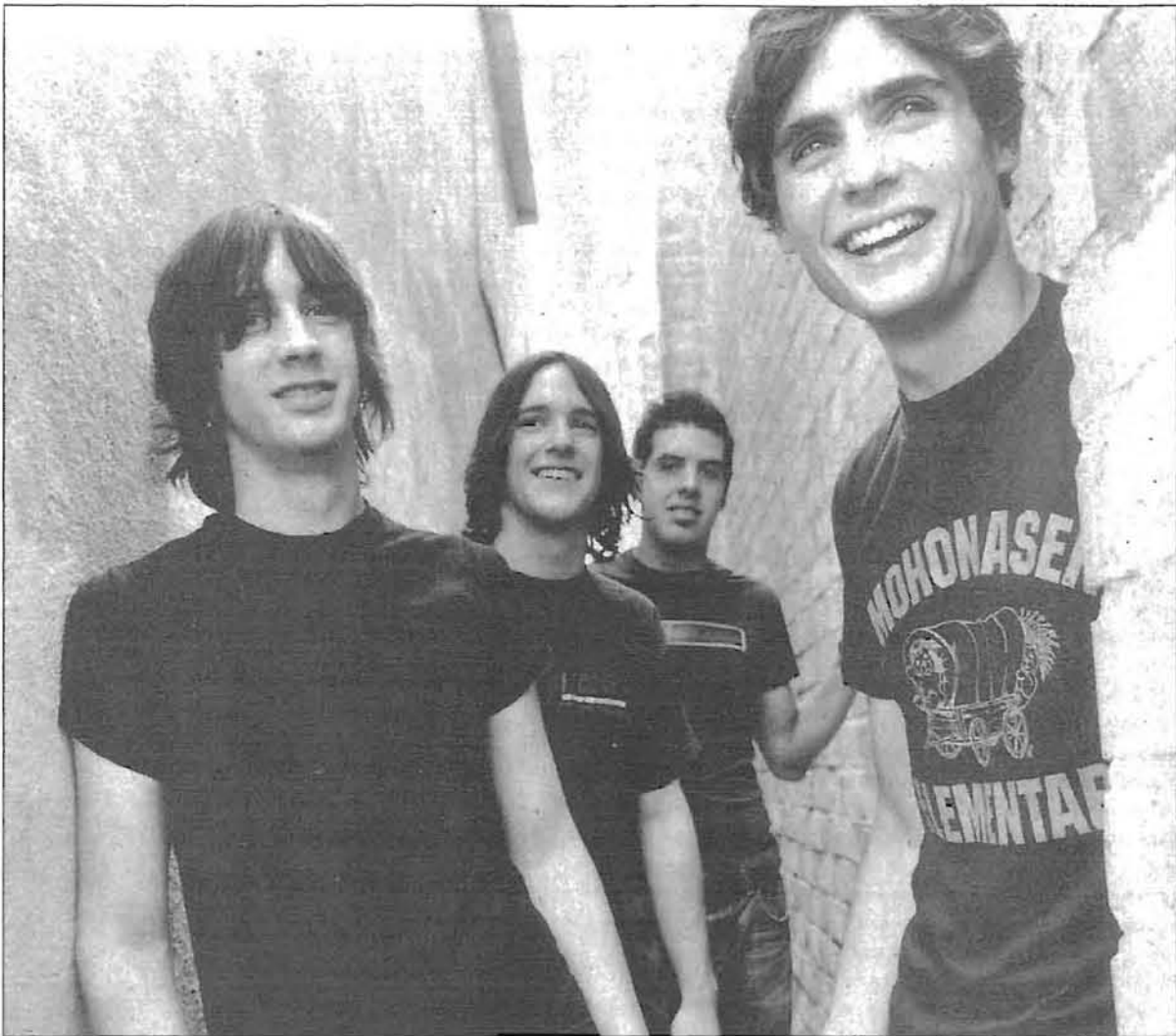
CD REVIEW

# Rejects or rock stars?

BY MELISSA MCCRARY  
Staff Writer

The All-American Rejects are vying to be an "American rock band" by being favored among many pop-rock alternative listeners. The Rejects began their career in a small, quiet town of Stillwater, Oklahoma. Tyson Ritter and Nick Wheeler formed different bands of their own while still in junior high. It isn't until later, at a high school party, that the two met and formed their own band together. The group proved that in order to get somewhere in life, a person must start early and at a very young age. Once the two graduated from high school, they skipped the ordinary route of going to college to pursue their dreams further. While many of their friends and former band members went on with their schooling, Ritter and Wheeler began producing their own music and searching for gigs. Growing up in the '80s, the boys listened to AC/DC, Def Leppard, Bon Jovi and Poison. The Rejects' sound, however, is more similar to recent bands like Blink-182 and Good Charlotte, with a touch of emotion similar to Dashboard Confessional. The duo says that, despite some of their old favorite sounds, they are their own inspiration. Some of the very first songs they created, like "Don't Leave Me" and "One More Sad Song," gained great popularity right from the band's beginning. Other favorite songs on their self-titled album include "My Paper Heart," "Time Stands Still" and "Living on a Prayer."

The song "My Paper Heart" is about the infatuation between one of the artists and his ex-girlfriend. The lyrics "Moving on is easiest when I am around you. So bottle up old love and row it out to sea," illustrates how old lovers can move on and still be friends. The song "Swing, Swing" is their first song to gain popularity over the duo. The song is full of hope with an empowering beat. The catchy lyrics, "Swing, swing, swing from the tangles of my heart is crushed by a former love. Can you help me find a way to carry on again?" describe a young man who is looking to his friends for comfort from the troubles of moving on in life after a bad breakup.



The All American Rejects may have started out playing in basements, but they now tour all over the Midwest. Find their latest tour information at [www.allamericanrejects.com](http://www.allamericanrejects.com).

The band's debut album was released to music stores all across the country on Feb. 4, 2003, by DreamWorks Records. After listening to every track on the album, I was easily able to come to the conclusion that there is not one song on the album that doesn't deal with love. However, their love tunes have a happy-go-lucky melody, and some don't even sound like love songs. It seems as though much of today's music is derived from love that doesn't always last, but Ritter believes that there is more to their music than sappy love. "It all comes from my ex-girlfriends. All my songs are about simple relationship bullshit. There are different scenarios to each song; so, you've got pretty much every f\*\*\*ed-up thing

that can happen in a relationship," Ritter said. The group has already received many great reviews from rock websites and magazines like the Alternative Press, YM and Rolling Stone. In January, Rolling Stone created a hot list of their favorite new and upcoming albums, singles and videos. The All-American Rejects ranked high in the charts at number five. Not only can listeners get a feel for the band's fun attitude towards life from the music but also by reading the back of the album cover. The dedication and thank you note on the CD cover lists the band's appreciation for their parents; then, their spontaneous personalities come out when they go on to thank many of their hometown college bars.

The Rejects are ecstatic about their careers in the music business and are living life to its fullest one day at a time. They want to prove to rock and alternative lovers that they will gain lasting fame and that they won't be just some one-hit wonder. Moving on in their careers beyond playing in each other's basements, parties or at local bars, they are enthusiastic about finally being able to tour nationally. Their upcoming tours will take place all over the Midwest, New York City, England and Scotland. In February, St. Louis got the chance to experience the duo when they performed at Mississippi Nights. It is only a matter of time before the group will be back in St. Louis. People can check out tour dates at [www.allamericanrejects.com](http://www.allamericanrejects.com).

AWARDS, from page 11

**Best Supporting Actor**  
Nominees : Chris Cooper for *Adaptation*, Ed Harris for *The Hours*, Paul Newman for *Road to Perdition*, John C. Reilly for *Chicago*, and Christopher Walken for *Catch Me If You Can*.  
Most Likely Winner: Chris Cooper  
Should Win: Ed Harris, Christopher Walken, or Paul Newman.  
The Scoop: Really tough to call—not just to guess which way Oscar will blow but also to say who

“  
In 2002, an amazing crop of outstanding, late-season films made up for a year that seemed to offer few likely candidates for Oscars.  
”

ought to win. They are all worthy of the award. They are all so good, all so different, and all nearly made their film. Again, I wish they all could win, but I leaned a bit toward Ed Harris who gave the performance of his life, and against all those muscular women's performances too. Walken and Newman stole the show in their films, and John C. Reilly was wonderful, as he was in the other two Oscar-nominated films he was in this year (*Gangs of New York* and *The Hours*). Is there an Oscar for appearing in the most Oscar nominated films in a single year?

**Best Supporting Actress**  
Nominees: Kathy Bates for *About Schmidt*, Julianne Moore for *The Hours*, Queen Latifah for *Chicago*, Meryl Streep for *Adaptation*, and Catherine Zeta-Jones for *Chicago*.  
Most Likely Winner: Kathy Bates or Queen Latifah  
Should Win: Kathy Bates  
The Scoop: Once again, all of them deserve the award. The attention seems most focused on Bates and Latifah, so it is hard to guess which way the academy voters will finally lean. Streep is popular but already has an award, and Julianne Moore is up-and-coming, and they may let her wait until next time. For some reason, Catherine Zeta-Jones

doesn't seem to be too popular with the insiders, although I thought she was better in *Chicago* than her co-star Zellweger. But it was Queen Latifah who really stole that show, and the Academy may realize that she's unlikely to get another juicy, vampy role like this again and just give her that statue. I thought Bates deserved it, not so much for the hot tub nude scene but for her dead-on, eccentric character. I've met women like this and she nailed it.

**Best Documentary**  
Nominees: *Bowling for Columbine*, *Daughter From Danang*, *Prisoner of Paradise*, *Spellbound*, *Winged Migration*.  
Most Likely Winner: *Bowling for Columbine*  
Should Win: *Bowling for Columbine*  
The Scoop: Too easy. A pair of the other docs had a run at the St. Louis International Film Festival last year (*Daughter From Danang* and *Spellbound*), but only *Bowling for Columbine* had a wide release and has been a popular hit, too, something documentaries rarely achieve. The other docs are good, but *Bowling for Columbine* was terrific, both entertaining and significant. It would be more than surprising if it did not win.

**Best Foreign Film**  
Nominees: *El Crimen Del Padre Amaro* (Mexico), *Hero* (China), *The Man Without a Past* (Finland), *Nowhere in Africa* (Germany), and *Zus and Zo* (Netherlands).  
Most Likely Winner: *Nowhere in Africa*  
Should Win: *Nowhere in Africa* (but should have been *Talk to Her*)  
The Scoop: What's this? Yes, in fact two of the best foreign films of last year were not even nominated—*Talk to Her* and *Y Tu Mama Tambien*. Both are Spanish language films—“*Talk to Her*” from Spain and “*Y Tu Mama Tambien*” from Mexico. There were convoluted comedy-of-errors tales about how these sad omissions came about, but what matters is that two of the year's best films weren't nominated. *Talk to Her's* director, Pedro Almodovar, was nominated in the Best Director category, but the film was overlooked. Both films were among the year's best, in any language, so failing to honor these two is the major misstep of this year's Oscars. Of the films actually nominated, “*Nowhere in Africa*,” a WWII tale of a Jewish family hiding in Africa, deserves the win.

GAME REVIEW

# Impossible creatures and delights

BY CHARLIE BRIGHT  
Senior Writer

You are Rex Chance, cheeky adventurer of the 1930s seeking your long-lost father, the destruction of the evil Upton Julius and a little cookie on the side. To help you achieve these three noble goals, you must combine skunks and crocodiles, wolves and homets, and dozens of other critters in an attempt to save the world from the bad guys. These hybrid monsters will form the bulk of your army as you try to rule, er, save the world. Without a doubt, *Impossible Creatures* is the only RTS game that will make you foam at the mouth from the thought of acquiring scorpion DNA. Real-time strategy has always suffered from the dilemma of unit balance, and units had boring powers with even more boring counterattacks. This made units monotonous and kept different factions from being truly different from one another. *Impossible Creatures* lets players shatter this time-honored tradition by building hybrid units in an every-man-for-himself orgy of destruction. The music is catchy, '30s-style swing, and the voice acting is as

cheeky as it comes. Rex Chance (Wrecks chance, get it?) and Lucy Willing (Is she really?) are the protagonists of the single-player campaign, which spans a thousand-mile-long island chain, and more than fifty crea-

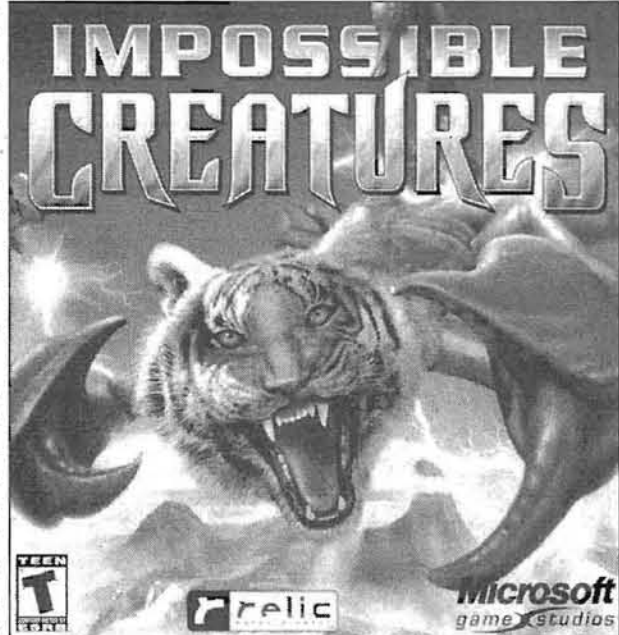


Photo courtesy Microsoft Game Studios

**This real-time strategy combat game from Microsoft puts the player against the hybrid minions of a powerful technology company.** tures. Their quest is to uncover the truths behind the death of Rex's father and the wickedness of Upton Julius, destroying cheesy sub-villains in the process. The graphics are top-notch, and the sound effects make the critters come to life based on the species of the

head. The only complaint in this department is that your hench-voice will alert you to the fact that the “critters are under attack” every ten seconds or so. The solution is clear: kill everything that can attack your critters. The multiplayer game is astoundingly original, having solved the problem of mechanical players doing a harvest-build-destroy-repeat routine that plagues so many other RTS games \*cough-Age of Mythology-cough\* and keeping the game fun for newbs and experts alike. Add to this the fact that the developer, Relic Entertainment, plans on releasing yet more creatures into the mix (available for free online), and you've got a solid investment of forty bucks that will occupy more time than your family, job and friends put together. It would be fair to say that there are certain things in this world that are addictive, with cigarettes, heroin and “*Impossible Creatures*” topping the list. I don't have brown teeth or bloody tracks on my arm, but there is a huge purple bruise on my posterior, and I dream of shrieking rats with wings. I barely eat; this game is ruining my life. It is a Herculean effort to type this review rather than play the game. Save yourself.

LATIFAH, from page 10

The racial humor is a bit of a new twist, but the rest is familiar. A white guy trying to sound or act black seems to have become the fallback humor of recent decades. In the '50s and '60s, the guy in a dress was the tried and true gag of sagging comedies. In the '30s and '40s, comedians would lose their pants for this sure-fire laugh. In the '20s, it was a pie in the face. Now the surefire gag in the mind of creativity-challenged comedy writers seems to be having uptight white guys talk or act like African-American men from the hood. That part of this film is just lame, worn-out humor, but that isn't the most objectionable part of the film. The plot

is a mess, with lots of stereotyped characters and nothing remotely believable anywhere in sight. But it is the racial nature of many of the jokes that is so surprising, especially since this movie seems to have been Queen Latifah's project, with Steve Martin just along for the toboggan ride downhill. One of the people at the preview of the film went so far as to call it the most offensive film he'd ever seen. Because the cast is so talented, they are able to pull off some scenes, and a few of the jokes get a laugh. However, this is no thanks to the script or the direction, which sets new standards for the terms “dumb” and “pointless.” What these people were thinking

when they made this movie, we can only wonder. In an era of films that are a profound waste of talent, this one sets a new level, for also appearing in this turkey are Eugene Levy and Joan Plowright. The level of talent does squeeze some laughs out of the scrip, and maybe they were brought in to refloat this movie. But nothing can keep this titanic mistake from sinking. What the title of the film is supposed to mean, beyond hopes of uproarious humor, is not clear. More likely, “*Bringing Down the House*” will crash down around the ears of whoever thought this would make a good movie.

# THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOTS

Jason Granger Adam Bodendieck

First and foremost, we need to address the letter to the editor submitted by Jamie Smith, which appears on page five of this issue. If you haven't read it already, please do so now (Don't worry, we'll wait for you). While the letter is addressed to the editor, it directly pertains to us, and we felt the need to defend ourselves.

Okay, so here's our two cents: Most importantly, we're sorry for what happened to Jamie at the Metrolink station. Unfortunately, there's a meanness in this world, and it sucks. And if we thought we had the power to change it, we would - but we don't. We seriously doubt that any comments we made led to a normal person deciding, out of the blue, that it was okay to sexually assault a woman. This seems to be the contention that Jamie is making.

While some of the jokes we've made in the past may have crossed the line of good taste, when it comes to the issue of causing the objectification of and/or violence against women, our consciences are clear. This is why we don't agree with Jamie's assertion that we should be fired and the column discontinued.

In her letter, Jamie herself admits that she was "on edge" when she read the column, which is perfectly understandable given her circumstances. In retrospect, however, we hope that she realizes that statements such as "The article in 'The Village Idiots' sexually assaulted me again" are simply not fair. Taken literally, it makes it sound as if we assaulted her ourselves, which is totally not true. For what it's worth, we have the utmost respect for women and the privacy of their bodies. Indeed, we feel that the man who assaulted Jamie is the lowest form of humanity.

Please understand that we don't want to paint Jamie in a negative light. We don't know Jamie, and subsequently we don't dislike or want to ridicule her. Believe it or not, we're actually decent guys, even if our personas come across as juvenile jerks. We just want Jamie to understand that we can't possibly know what specific situations specific people are going to be in when they read our column. For example, if we had known that Jamie had been recently assaulted, maybe we wouldn't have written what we did (which, for the record, we personally don't feel to be as offensive as it's being made out to be. Of course, that's just our own opinions).

So what now? Will "The Village Idiots" continue to run in "The Current"? Yes. Will we consider more carefully how our comments might be interpreted in the future? Also yes. Do we feel personally responsible for

what happened to Jamie? Honestly, no. But are we sorry that it happened? In all sincerity, yes. Anyone who feels otherwise should be ashamed.

In closing, we just want to say that while it's deplorable that Jamie was sexually assaulted, it was not us who assaulted her. Moreover, we don't agree with the contention that we, two guys writing a humor column for a college newspaper, are contributing to "the objectification of and violence towards women."

If anyone agrees or disagrees with us and wants to weigh in on the subject, please drop either us or our editors a line. We're always interested in feedback.

Jason and Adam

Dear Jason and Adam,

First of all I would like to compliment you on coming out of the shells your editor put on you earlier, when the column was new. Seeing your responses makes me feel like it's something I would do also. Nice work.

I would like to make a comment on one of the articles in the current, and maybe get your opinion on the matter. Last week there was a big shit about the Frat house down the street (whoever they are) saying "No Fags", and then this week that same frat president making his comments. My problem is with the original writer, comparing being gay to being a certain race. Is that to imply that people are so stupid to believe that your genetic code is the same as a chemical imbalance in the brain that causes you to think your ass is another body part from another gender? That is probably the most ridiculous analogy I've ever read. Race is something you can't help, it's encoded into you. I'm sure there is a doctor out there somewhere that wouldn't mind giving some queer a shot of testosterone to make him realize what he has a penis for though. In any event, either the analogy or the frat house, any thoughts? (My initial thought was, who cares? It's a frat house, but then the analogy came up, so...)

Signed, LET ME LEAVE!

Dear LET ME LEAVE,  
You're not going to like our response. Why? Because we wholeheartedly disagree with you. Indeed, neither one of us has a problem with gay people in the least. We both have gay friends and, believe it or not, they are just the same as any other person. Call us dirty tree hugging hippies if

you must, but it is just the way we feel.

As for your contention that being gay is a "chemical imbalance," quite honestly, no one knows for sure if homosexuality is genetic or if it is a choice, subconscious or otherwise. Neither one of us feels the need to take a stand one way or the other on that issue, since it really doesn't matter. Gay people are just the same as you and I. Your letter illustrates a certain intolerance and immaturity that you need to come to grips with (we realize we're inviting "pot calling the kettle" and "glass houses" comments here, but we're serious) before you go making assertions about people. There is a well-known axiom that humanity fears what it does not understand.... Well, it's obvious you don't understand tolerance and compassion. For those of us who are tolerant of all people, all we can do is shake our heads in bewilderment that someone feels they are so above other people as to pass judgment.

As for the frat, we both believe they have a moral responsibility to remove the offensive statement from the side of the house, no matter the cost. In this day and age, in light of all the turmoil in the world, we all need to be tolerant, of all people. Gay, straight, black, white, Christian, Muslim (remember this when you are going after that mosque with a lit gas can), we're all human.

We know that you were probably just trying to stir s\*\*t up, and we know that you're going to be all disappointed with our response and all "they sold out, wha, wha, wha..." but oh well. That's what we think. If you don't like it, so be it.

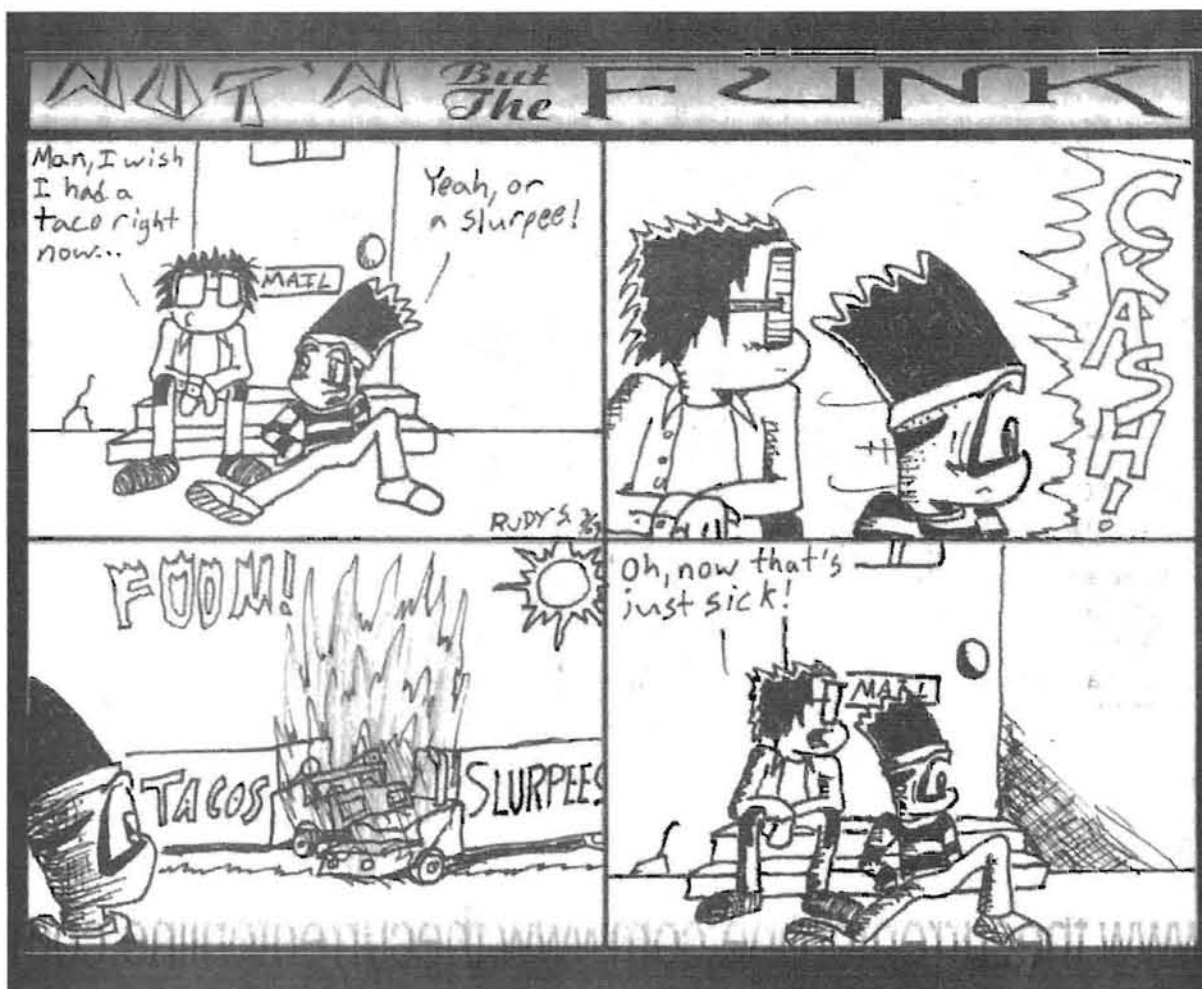
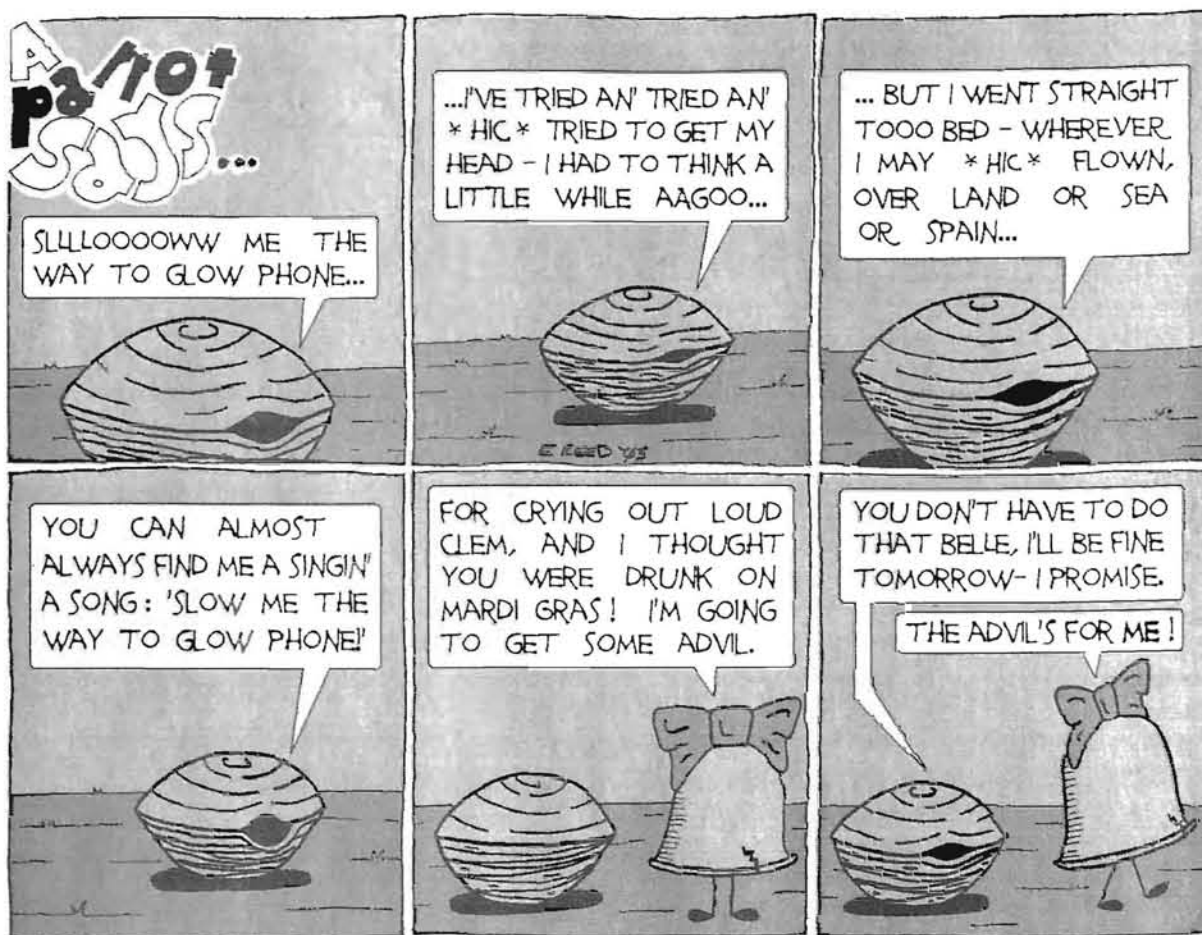
Love, Adam and Jason

If you have a question, send us an e-mail: [VillageldiotsJA@yahoo.com](mailto:VillageldiotsJA@yahoo.com). If you don't like e-mail, you can bring a question to us on the third floor of the MSC, room 388.

## !!!DISCLAIMER!!!

Adam Bodendieck and Jason Granger are by no means qualified to dispense advice. They are a couple of stupid college guys. Please do not send them serious questions. It will be assumed that if you send them questions, they are in jest and open to Adam and Jason's own particular brand of humor. This column is intended to be read as parody. So there.

-The Management



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9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

New Hours of Operation  
Effective March 17, 2003  
U-Mart  
Monday - Thursday  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Friday  
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

## Easy Math Midterms

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Economist Robert Shiller wonders why we have such faith in the utter rationality of markets when we ourselves can be kinda, you know, irrational. Bad judgment, lousy information, half-baked strategies—there are times when **money brings out the worst in people.** That's why Prof. Shiller's retirement dollars are invested with a company whose levelheaded thinking stands out in a world where impulse and intuition are bucking intelligence and insight.

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Robert Shiller became a participant in 1976. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc., and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc., distribute securities products. ©2002 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association—College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), New York, NY. A charitable donation was made on behalf of Robert Shiller.



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<http://www.TheCurrentOnline.com> [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)

## Help Wanted

### Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs is seeking energetic, friendly, and highly motivated students to serve as mentors for New Student Orientation 2003. This is a paid position that requires participation in mentor development and all orientation dates. Applications are now being accepted with a deadline of Friday, March 14. Pick up an application packet from Student Life (366 MSC), the Bookstore or online at [www.umsl.edu/services/orientation](http://www.umsl.edu/services/orientation). If you have questions or would like more information, call Rachel at 516-6551 or email: [rachel@umsl.edu](mailto:rachel@umsl.edu).

## For sale

**Hunter green sofa bed**, one year old, in excellent new condition; perfect for dorm or apartment. \$200. Please contact Shane or Holli @ (314) 805-6571.

**95 Dodge Neon Sport** CD player. Excellent condition. \$1,750 OBO. Call (314) 583-2557 for more information.

### 4 speakers for sale

AIWA STEREO RECEIVER Model AX-100 VU  
2 - 200 Watt Technics Speakers  
2 - 100 Watt Sony Speakers  
The asking price for the entire package is \$70.  
Call Azlan at (314) 283-2190.

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**Notebook computer:** HP model ze5170, Intel P4-2.0 GHz, 512 MB DDR SDRAM, 40 GB ATA100 HD, DVD-Rom + CD-RW combo, ATI 32 MB video, 15" XGA-TFT screen, 10/100 NIC, 56K modem, Windows XP Home + tons of bundled software, 3 yr. ext. warranty, only 4 months old, \$1,700 firm. 516-6941.

### 96 Navy blue camaro, V6 3.8

Liter, Aut., Rear Wheel Drive, Air Cond., Power Steering, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, AM/FM stereo, compact disc system, CD Changer/Stacker, Dual Front Airbags, ABS (4-whl), inside black leather, power seat, t-bar roof. Inside & outside excellent condition, four new tires, excellent mechanical and clean engine. \$8,500. Call 603-1545.

**Hunter green sofa bed**, one year old, in excellent new condition; perfect for dorm or apartment. \$200. Please contact Shane or Holli @ (314) 805-6571.

### 90 Honda Civic

automatic, 4-door, power windows, AM/FM, disc stereo, good body, runs great. \$1000. Call 636-346-8466.

### Pontiac Grand AM

1994 Gray Metallic, 4 doors, AM/FM, a lot of new parts. Professional maintenance, runs great, reliable car. Need to sell - moving out of the state. Your best offer - call 314-727-0786, cell 314-713-4549.

### University Meadows apt.

**available.** Looking for someone to take over lease for spring semester. January rent paid. Room is in 4 bedroom apt. with 3 other guys. Call 314-892-2448. Ask for Tyson.

### Seeking roommate

Seeking roommate to share large 4 bedroom house 2 miles from campus. \$300/month includes everything. DirecTV, DSL, and voicemail box. Call Tripp at 521-7330.

### Seeking roommate

UM-St. Louis student, black female, early 20's, smoker, quiet, studious, keep to self, serious minded. Seeking female roommate to share two bdrm. apartment, expenses approximately \$400 monthly max. Must have the finance to pay own share. If you are interested, please call and/or leave a message at 348-8109. The apartment is Kensington Square Apartments, 2100 N. New Florissant, Florissant, MO 63033.

## Misc.

### Submissions Wanted

Bellerive is accepting submissions (poetry, short stories, essays, photos, artwork, etc.). Include your name, phone #, and email. Drop off at the Honors College Student Office, the English Department Office, or the Fine Arts Office. Deadline: April 17. For more info, email [nancygleason@umsl.edu](mailto:nancygleason@umsl.edu).

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Washington University in St. Louis

## FOR WOMEN ONLY!!! AGES 25-45

Have you ever wondered if your mood  
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## Have Concerns About Your Campus?

Are There Things You Want  
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IF SO, JOIN *STUDENT SENATE  
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Come to an info session in the conference rooms of the MSC  
(3<sup>rd</sup> floor) to find out how to apply and make a difference!

Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm

OR

Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

Election applications are now available in  
the Office of Student Life so pick one up  
today.



# Sex Under the Influence

*Drinking, sex, HIV are subjects of lecture*



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Joel Goldman speaks to a lunchtime crowd in the Pilot House Wednesday on the danger drinking alcohol can pose to good judgement about safe sex. He says that even though most college students understand how to practice safe sex, too often students' good judgement is clouded or compromised when under the influence of alcohol. Goldman's appearance was sponsored by the Sigma Pi fraternity, University Health Services, and UPB.

BY MIKE SHERWIN  
Staff Writer

Joel Goldman is no stranger to risk. As a college student, Goldman partook in the usual revelry of university life: drinking, partying, and casual sex. He learned the hard way that these behaviors can carry grave consequences: Goldman is currently living with HIV.

Now Goldman travels around the country speaking to students about the dangers of mixing alcohol and sex. He spoke Wednesday to an audience of about 40 people in the Pilot House, on "Sex Under the Influence."

Goldman is not a teetotaler. He recognizes that college students will always want to drink in order to have fun. He stresses that "You can have fun and still protect yourself."

Goldman also points out that awareness about safe sex is wide-

spread. "During the daylight hours, you all know how to protect yourselves. We have all learned about safe sex and condom use in order to prevent the spread of AIDS. But it's at night when people drink and take chances," says Goldman.

He recounted his own experiences before he became HIV positive. "I grew up in your basic upper-middle-class family, with very well-educated parents. When I went to college, the AIDS epidemic was just beginning, but everyone was saying that it was a disease that didn't affect the educated class."

Goldman found that alcohol was the perfect way to give himself the confidence to be social. "If I had a drink, all of a sudden I could go up and talk to someone I found attractive. After two drinks, I could ask them to dance. With three drinks, I actually thought I could dance."

But he warns students, "When you

and your date have each had three or four drinks, what kind of decisions do you think you are going to make together about how the night will proceed?"

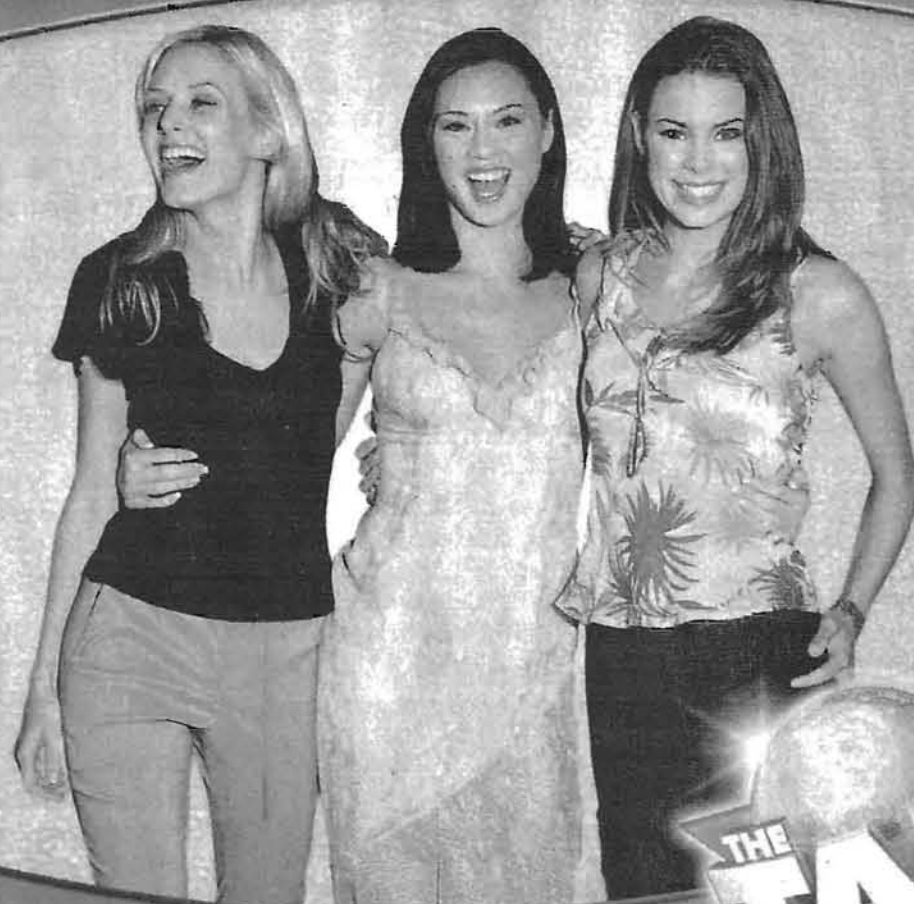
"All of us have boundaries, morals and standards during those daytime hours, but when night rolls around, it's really easy to forget them."

Goldman wants students to not follow in his footsteps and take unnecessary risks. "I just want to caution you: spring break is coming up, and you have to be prepared."

Goldman's appearance was sponsored by the Sigma Pi fraternity, Health Services, and the UPB.

According to Rob Clarke, a member of Sigma Pi, the fraternity wanted to bring Goldman to UM-St. Louis "because we wanted to start providing more positive programs for the entire campus. The issues of risk management, particularly with sex and alcohol, are crucial for students."

## What's your bedtime?



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Unless otherwise stated, for more info. on these events, contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5291 (MSC 366) or the University Program Board at 516-5531 (MSC 381). To receive this schedule by e-mail; e-mail us at [UMSL\\_UPB@hotmail.com](mailto:UMSL_UPB@hotmail.com).



# Student Life

Your Guide to Cultural, Athletic, Recreational, and Social Activities on the UM-St. Louis Campus

## March 2003

### WWE: RAW

Monday, March 17th

3:30 p.m.

Live at the Saavis Center

Tickets for this event will be on sale from March 3rd and will cost \$20.

### Gender, Crime & Justice

Monday, March 17th

12 - 1 p.m.

315 MSC

Part of the Student Life Women's Lecture Series

### Women's Expo

Monday & Tuesday, March 17th and 18th

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2nd floor MSC

Part of the Student Life Women's Lecture Series

### "With a Song in My Heart"

Wednesday, March 19th

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

375 MSC

Part of the Student Life Women's Lecture Series.

### Women's Blizzard of Bucks Game Show

Thursday, March 20th

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Nosh

Play an interactive game show and win money! Sign up on game day.

If you would like to submit an activity for this calendar, please contact UPB at 516-5531, e-mail us at [upb\\_umsl@yahoo.com](mailto:upb_umsl@yahoo.com) or leave an event description in our mailbox in the Student Organizations office. We'll need the event title, a brief description and contact information.